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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI government's compliance with the Open Government Act?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Pandemic Fears

The global swine flu outbreak worsens as authorities say hundreds of students at a New York school have fallen ill.

NATION...Page 14



7 Deaths

The toll from the swine flu epidemic appears to be stabilizing in Mexico, with only seven more deaths.

WORLD...Page 16

Lambert Shines

Paula Abdul stopped just short of declaring Adam Lambert the future winner of "American Idol."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

'No to lowering Praxis test scores.' PAGE 2

'White paper' seeks to address insular areas' energy needs. PAGE 3

Rota, Tinian short by \$265K for personnel

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With five more months to go before the end of the fiscal year, the municipal governments of Rota and Tinian are now bleeding dry—a fiscal challenge that the Office of Management and Budget says will increase if no further belt-tightening measures are put in place.



Fleming

As of yesterday, OMB recorded a deficit of nearly \$300,000 in personnel funding for the two municipalities.

Rota, according to OMB acting director and special assistant for administration Esther S. Fleming, is now facing a \$160,000 deficit in its personnel cost, while Tinian has so

See ROTA on Page 4

NO LOCAL CASES
YET OF SWINE FLU

CNMI ON PANDEMIC ALERT 4

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As part of precautionary measures, the Department of Public Health will be sending off island the test results of anyone found with type A flu for further evaluation.

See PANDEMIC on Page 4



TOURISM MONTH

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Senate President Reyes show off the t-shirts they got from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio after yesterday's proclamation signing declaring May as Tourism Month. The brief ceremony was attended by MVA board members and agency partners. This year's theme is "Tourism is everybody's business."

See story on Page 2.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NMI Fund says it is owed \$215M, govt says \$213M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund told Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo yesterday the government owes the pension system over \$215 million in

unpaid employer contributions plus penalty, while the government said it's only \$213 million.

Fund board of trustees chair Juan T.

See FUND on Page 4



Guerrero

NMC faculty is divided on Fernandez's renewal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Faculty members polled on the accreditation work of Dr. Carmen Fernandez are split in their evaluation of the Northern Marianas College president.

According to Faculty Senate president Frank Sobolewski, out of the 54 evaluation forms recently passed out to instructional



Fernandez

See NMC on Page 4

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT ADULT IMMUNIZATION

IMMUNIZATION IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

Most parents wouldn't think of letting their children go without immunization. Yet, these very same adults, and even the parents of these adults, suffer from infectious diseases-diseases that adult immunization can easily prevent. Some are unaware that adult vaccines exist that can give them, longer healthier lives. Some think immunization is just for kids, and others are procrastinators. But when these people's lives are damaged or cut short, far more than their families suffer. Our entire society suffers.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON OUR SOCIETY?

Illness is expensive. Each year the CNMI government spends thousands of dollars treating adults for illnesses-illnesses that vaccines could have prevented. The dollars are staggering, but what price can you put on a human life? What price can you put on a family's agony as they watch as a mother, a father, a husband, or a wife struggle with debilitating disease? What is the price when the battle is lost?

Our nation proudly points to our many childhood immunization accomplishments, we have reduced the cost of the health care, improved our children's lives, and we have reduced the number of preventable deaths. Just imagine the impact our society if adults were equally protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

WHICH VACCINES SHOULD ADULT RECEIVE?

■ Influenza

Influenza vaccination is readily available and must be repeated each year.

■ Pneumococcal

The elderly and people with certain medical conditions, such as, chronic lung disease or immunosuppression, are most susceptible to pneumococcal disease; people under 65 will need booster shot when they reach 65 if more than 5 years have passed since the first dose.

■ Tetanus, Diphtheria (Td)

Booster doses of Td are needed at 10-year interval throughout a person's life.

■ Chicken Pox (Varicella)

Adults have a far greater risk of complications from this disease. These include swelling of the brain, pneumonia, and even death. Protection is crucial for anyone who has not had this disease and has not been vaccinated.

■ Hepatitis A

Adults need protection if they live in the U.S. communities, or travel to other countries with high rates of Hepatitis A. This vaccine is essential for those who have chronic liver disease, are injection drug users, or are men who have sex with men.

■ Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is the primary sexually transmitted infection we can immunize against. It is more 100 times more contagious than the virus that caused AIDS, and there is no cure. It is known as the "Silent disease" because it may infect people without making them feel sick. In fact, nearly one-third of those infected have no idea how they got the infection (disease)

For more information call Immunization Program at 236-8745.

Paid for by federal grant Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Public Health, Immunization Program.

Local

'No to lowering Praxis test scores'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The State Board of Education and CNMI Public School System are in agreement that lowering the passing scores for Praxis exams is inconsistent with their goal of promoting high student learning for the youth of the CNMI.

This was the decision relayed by the board and PSS to the Association of Commonwealth Teachers, which has been pushing the adoption of lower scores after the group found out that CNMI-PSS has higher cutoff scores compared to other states.

"To use the median cut scores of states with lower scores than ours would mean changing and lowering our teaching and learning standards. Doing this is inconsistent with the ultimate goal of PSS, which is high student achievement. Our goal is to improve teaching and learning.

...Lowering teaching standards could have an adverse impact on student learning," the report, prepared by PSS and BOE, stated.

PSS and the board said the Praxis set scores were based on the average scores of a group of PSS teachers and administrators and students from the School of Education at Northern Marianas College who volunteered to take Praxis I.

The report, as presented to the association, disclosed that there are no states that have a lower cut score in Praxis I than the CNMI PSS. The average cut scores in this test ranged from 172.43 to 173.90 points for 26 to 28 states that require Praxis I.

It cited Hawaii and Guam, which both have a similar cut score of 170 for all test categories in Praxis I (just like the CNMI), while the U.S. Virgin Islands, North Dakota, and Louisiana have a similar cut score of 170 for at least one of the three

test categories in Praxis I.

From a sample of approximately 19 states, PSS said the CNMI PSS has higher scores on the principles of learning and teaching test for grade levels 5 to 12 by an average of 1.78 points. Of these 19 states, PSS has a higher cut score than 12 states in Praxis II by an average of 2.20 points.

The report said the average number of states with higher Praxis II cut scores in English, math, science, and social studies ranges from 10 to 17 points.

"The highest Praxis II cut score is in English, 164, which is 6 points higher than the CNMI; while the lowest Praxis cut score is 143, which is 15 points lower than the CNMI. However, the average score from the sample of 29 states that require Praxis II English Language Arts is 155.72, which reflect a 2.28 point difference," states the report.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial poses for a picture with the *man'amko* after signing the proclamation declaring May as Older Americans Month.

Fitial proclaims May Older
Americans, Tourism MonthBy **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday separately signed two proclamations declaring May as Older Americans Month and Tourism Month.

At the Office on Aging in Garapan, the governor said the community can improve older citizens' overall quality of life by helping them make behavioral changes in their lifestyle that can reduce the risk of disease, disability and injury, and gain better access to care.

He said the community should also give the elderly more options to avoid placement in nursing homes and remain at home as long as

possible.

The CNMI is home to 4,766 citizens age 55 and over.

"I urge all citizens to honor and support older adults and those who care for them," the governor said in his proclamation, with Senate President Pete P. Reyes and Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero by his side.

Susana N. Santos, 71, said she's happy that the governor visited the Office on Aging for the proclamation signing. She added that the service at the center has been sufficient for her and other elderly.

"I have been coming here at the *man'amko* center for six years. I enjoy dancing, playing bingo and baseball," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tourism is everybody's
business

The governor, in his second proclamation signing yesterday, said this year's theme for Tourism Month is "Tourism is everybody's business," now that it is the only industry in the CNMI.

Tourism, he said, is of vital importance to the CNMI's people, creating opportunities for employment, economic prosperity, international trade and cross-cultural understanding.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio presented the governor and Senate President Reyes t-shirts promoting Tourism Month. The monthlong celebration includes the annual food festival on May 2 and every Saturday of the month.

Also present at the brief ceremony were MVA board members and agency partners.

'White paper' seeks to address insular areas' energy needs

By KRISTI EATON

Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Legislation has been drafted that would create an Energy Action Plan to reduce dependency on fossil fuels in the eight U.S.-affiliated islands.

Congressional staffers have

been informally circulating the draft legislation to gauge interest among the island communities.

No decisions have been made regarding the inclusion of the material in national energy legislation, said Allen Stayman, of the U.S. Senate Com-

mittee on Energy and Natural Resources, which is developing comprehensive national energy legislation.

The five territories—the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands—and three freely associated states—Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall

Islands and Palau—have the greatest oil dependency and highest electricity costs, the white paper draft notes. The U.S. Department of Energy has been working with main-

land companies to modernize the electric grid; encourage the development of renewable energy; and promote building energy efficiency to reduce energy consumption, but the insular areas have not been a part of this effort.

The white paper draft circulating says the Secretary of Energy and the Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, will create a team of



Stayman

experts to address the insular areas' energy needs.

The team would help each island utility and government to develop an action plan. Studies would be done to assess the possibilities of reducing fossil fuel usage through energy efficiency. Educating and training the local utility companies is also a part of the draft legislation.

The team would report to Congress annually on the progress of implementing the action plan and reducing the use of fossil fuel.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. earlier asked the Public Utilities Commission to waive

the law mandating it to meet renewable energy requirements until September 2010, saying the utility agency needs time to develop its financial and technical capability.

Under Public Law 15-87, CUC was required by Dec. 31, 2008, to produce 10 percent of its power using renewable sources—a goal that was not met. The percentage of renewable sources—including wind, solar, geothermal, ocean current and energy efficient—is to increase to 80 percent by the end of 2014. The law allows CUC to petition PUC for a waiver if it is unable to meet the standards in a cost-effective manner or because of unforeseen circumstances.

DPH not testing drinking water for bacteria—DEQ

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health, the sole provider of comprehensive health services in the CNMI, failed to monitor its water system for total coliform bacteria in February and March, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

David Rosario, acting director of the Division of Environmental Quality, issued a notice of violation of the CNMI Drinking Water Regulations to Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez on April 23.

Villagomez could not be reached for comment at press time yesterday.

All public water systems are required to perform monitoring for total coliform bacteria every month, and the results must be submitted to the Division of Environmental Quality by the 10th day of the following month.

Rosario said DEQ records indicate that DPH's water system failed to properly monitor for total coliform. The number of routine samples required every month is two but DPH did not provide any for February and March.

In his two-page notice of violation, Rosario required DPH to provide public notice within the year and collect the required routine samples monthly.

Rosario said any person who violates or refuses or neglects to comply with any provision of the CNMI Drinking Water Regulations, or any certification, standard, notification or order issued by the DEQ director, the division or the attorney general, may be subject to penalties of \$25,000 per day per violation.

DEQ also earlier cited DPH/Commonwealth Health Center for failing to monitor its drinking water for disinfection by-products in 2008.

13 workers in sponsorship scheme uncovered by Labor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has uncovered another sponsorship scheme involving 13 workers who each paid \$1,000 to Elenita E. Camacho to file employment applications for nonexistent jobs.

Of the 13 workers, only 11 were granted employment transfer.

Labor hearing officer Herbert D. Soll issued two separate orders sanctioning Camacho \$500 for each of the 13 violations, for a total of \$6,500.

Camacho has also been permanently barred from hiring nonresident workers in the CNMI or from employ-

ment as a nonresident worker in the CNMI.

Soll said Camacho also used Weena P. Dulay, a U.S. citizen, to create a phantom business in her name in exchange for helping Dulay bring her mother to Saipan from the Philippines.

"Weena P. Dulay was aware of the fraud when she loaned her name to the scheme and she has been convicted of immigration fraud in the Superior Court. She was fined and served a jail term. No further sanction is appropriate in her case," said Soll.

The labor hearing officer said Elena Espiritu, a notary public in the CNMI, affixed her seal to the employment documents without the pres-

ence of the parties.

"There is no evidence that she was part of a conspiracy with Camacho and Dulay and she has been reprimanded for her careless acts. No further sanctions are in order for Ms. Espiritu," Soll added.

In his order, Soll gave Mary Ann T. Decena and Raquel E. Tadifa seven days to register with the Division of Employment Services and to find a suitable transfer employer who shall submit an employer intent form within 30 days of registration.

Nine other workers were also granted transfers, including Lina B. Cartagena, Amalia S. Gavino, Carol S. Flores, Winnie N. Mariano, Mary Joy Mirando,

Rose P. Ordonez, Blesila B. Prevaldo, and Ann Janette Sumpay.

Nonresident workers Emma L. Banez and Rowena D. Java, however, were not granted job transfer "for their actions in promoting the false sponsorships that have authenticated their presences in the Commonwealth," said Soll.

In an earlier sponsorship case, Labor sanctioned Leon H. Lizama for acting as an employer for 24 nonresidents. Five of the 24 workers cooperated with Labor to uncover the scheme which found Leon H. Lizama liable. Labor ordered him to pay \$12,000 and was permanently barred from hiring foreign workers.

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CRM presents programs at Rota junior high today

The Coastal Resource Management Office will be doing a presentation of its programs today at the Rota Junior High School in connection with the celebration of Environmental Awareness Month.

CRM director John Joyner, who will be joined by some CRM program officers, will talk to students not only about the marine environment but also its relation to the terrestrial system and its impact to the waters around the islands.

"I am very glad about the way the people of Rota are taking care of their environment," Joyner said.

He said the municipality has been conducting regular cleanup activities. Just recently, Joyner said, Rota volunteers helped dispose of a vessel that had been abandoned since 1982. Joyner said Rota volunteers also planted some

15,000 seedlings this month.

He also lauded the efforts of government agencies such as the Historical Preservation Office, Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Fish

and Wildlife and CRM in helping preserve the CNMI's pristine waters.

He said CRM works closely with other agencies under a "people first" motto.

"If you don't take protection as your goal and if you don't take care of the environment, you lose everything," said Joyner.

Joyner had just arrived from a 10-

day consultation meeting in Hawaii regarding the Mariana Trench National Monument, which he is one of its Advisory Council members. (*Nazario Rodriguez Jr.*)

Fitial says government will not tolerate abuses

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday said his administration does not tolerate abuse of authority and that officials who did something wrong have to pay for their mistake.

He, however, said he does not regret choosing former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez as his running mate.

"I would not tolerate abuses. I'm al-

lergic to abuses but that doesn't mean I have to kick somebody who is down. You have to express sorry not only for the person...but also for his family," Fitial told reporters on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

The governor said some members of Villagomez's family told him that they are considering filing an appeal, which is one of his options.

Villagomez resigned from his post over the weekend after being

found guilty of federal criminal charges on Friday.

A federal jury found Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos guilty of all charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Fitial, over the weekend, said Villagomez's decision is one he made for his family.

Villagomez is the highest ever

CNMI official to be convicted in a criminal case. He is the brother of Joaquina Santos, who is married to James Santos.

Fitial appointed Finance Secretary Eloy Inos as lieutenant governor. The Senate will hold a public hearing on the appointment tomorrow.

"I think the Senate did the right thing that people should be given an opportunity to express their decision on the appointment," he said.

NMC

From Page 1

and non-instructional faculty, only 29 submitted responses and the answers received reflected ratings that are both favorable and unfavorable for Fernandez.

"The faculty is much divided on the responses. Some rated the president's accreditation performance unfavorably while others favored the president. We

have a split stand and opinion [on the evaluation result]," Sobolewski told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He refused to disclose specific details of the evaluation results pending the board's acceptance. Sobolewski is expected to present the results of the poll to the regents today.

He expressed his gratitude to all 29 members who participated in the evaluation, saying their feedback may help the board make a fair decision on the renewal of the college president's con-

tract next week.

Sobolewski, when asked about the non-participation of almost half of the faculty, said there are many reasons behind the members' decision.

"First, they felt that the faculty input is not going to affect the board's decision on Fernandez's renewal one way or another. Also, I still believe in the existence of the climate of fear on campus because retaliation may come next to their answers. Others simply don't want to be involved because they

know that the evaluation sheet lacks some important aspects like personnel, financial, physical and technological aspects—categories approved and are important to the ACCJC," he said.

The board is scheduled to deliberate and decide on the president's contract renewal on May 5.

In the four-page evaluation form the Board of Regents issued to the faculty, it said "the primary goal and objective set by the Board of Regents for the president was to focus on accreditation

work so that the college would achieve accreditation reaffirmation."

The performance evaluation had two parts. The first part comprised six questions that were to be rated as outstanding, above satisfactory, satisfactory, limited, or not acceptable. It also asked raters to specify recommendations and suggestions for goals and objectives for the upcoming year in evaluating the college president.

The board is expecting an oral presentation from the faculty today.

FUND

From Page 1

Guerrero said the Fund would welcome a compromise of \$214 million because, he said, "the difference is very insignificant."

Both the government and Fund figures include the penalty charge.

"It's great news to the retirees and hopefully when we start seeing money coming in, then we would have to re-

visit the board policy," Guerrero said.

Charles P. Reyes said the \$213 million includes an "arbitrary and punitive" 25 percent penalty.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in a separate interview, said the government does not have the money to pay what's being claimed by the Retirement Fund.

He said had the Legislature acted on the administration's proposal to allow people to vote to amend the Constitution so the government can provide for a pension obligation fund, then the

Retirement Fund could have been paid.

The governor said it is not yet too late for the Legislature to act on the proposal.

Guerrero, meanwhile, said the judge made recommendations as to how the Retirement Fund may be paid.

"There are a lot of issues, like telling us that we need to start looking at things from investment perspective like use some of the money to invest locally so that it's not only on Wall Street...We need to review the law," he said.

Another recommendation, he added, is tapping the hotel and container tax to pay the Retirement Fund, as well as some government houses on Capital Hill.

"Whatever the judge will rule, hopefully it will rule in our favor based on what we presented to the court," he said.

Guerrero said the Fund will be meeting today with government lawyers to discuss the judge's recommendations on how the Fund could be paid. The

parties will be back in court on May 8.

The Retirement Fund has won its case against the CNMI government by default. The Superior Court is now determining how much money is owed by the government to the pension system.

The government also maintains it cannot pay the Fund the actuarial rate of 37.39 percent; only 11 percent in employer contribution as mandated by Public Law 16-32 or the \$148 million fiscal year 2009 budget.

PANDEMIC

From Page 1

"We are taking a proactive step to make sure that we are all safe," said Public Health program analyst Roxanne Diaz.

Although DPH assured yesterday that there is no local case yet of swine flu, the CNMI has been put on pandemic alert level 4.

This means that people in the community are warned of a possible person-to-person transmission of the dreaded

swine flu that had already killed 103 people in Mexico.

DPH activated this week the planning committee of the Emergency Operations Committee, based at the Commonwealth Health Center's conference room.

DPH said the staff of DPH and CHC has been put on standby.

On Wednesday, members of the Pandemic Flu Committee were called to an emergency meeting to discuss preparedness measures.

The committee is composed of representatives of different agencies, including DPH, CHC, Commonwealth

Ports Authority, Department of Public Safety, Department of Commerce, and Marianas Visitors Authority.

Diaz said the meeting was held to update the different member agencies of the Pandemic Flu Committee on the situation.

"We would like the public to know that we are taking a proactive step to make sure we are all safe," Diaz said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was set to issue an official statement late yesterday afternoon.

"As of now, we're still developing our official statement. The Office of

the Governor will be releasing it to the public later today," Diaz said.

Aside from those who were killed in Mexico, 20 cases have been confirmed in the United States and six in Canada.

Swine flu is spread from person to person through touching, coughing, sneezing or talking while you are sick.

The H1N1 strain of swine flu is usually associated with pigs. When the flu spreads person-to-person, instead of from animals to humans, it can continue to mutate, making it harder to treat or fight off.

The new strain can spread fast be-

cause people do not have natural immunity and vaccines can take months to develop.

"While there are no cases of swine flu in the CNMI, we are aggressively putting up precautionary measures and exercising our plans to prevent any outbreak not only here on Saipan but also on Tinian and Rota," Diaz said.

She said patients with flu would be thoroughly screened and tested and those with type A would be treated accordingly.

"We will be sending the test results off island for further study," she added.

ROTA

From Page 1

far incurred a shortfall of \$105,000 in personnel cost.

While all government instrumentalities and departments, including municipalities, were warned of cuts due to the enactment of the \$148 million budget bill, Fleming said it appears that more is needed to be done in exercising fiscal restraint to prevent local governments from going into deeper deficit spending.

Fleming said both municipalities were advised to exercise caution so they would stay within the limited funding.

Rota was appropriated \$8.4 million this fiscal year, with \$6.3 million allocated for personnel and \$2.1 million for

operations. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the municipality is budgeted at 99 full-time employees this fiscal year.

Fleming said Rota could use a portion of its operational fund to keep people in their jobs, at least until September.

"I can say that Rota municipality is very good in operation...and they can control spending. It's their call now and we already advised them of these figures," Fleming said yesterday.

For Tinian, OMB already recorded a \$105,000 deficit in its personnel budget as of yesterday.

The FY 2009 appropriation for Tinian totals \$8.4 million, with \$7 million budgeted for personnel wages and \$1.4 million for operation and all others. The municipality has 136 full-

time employees.

'Freeze hiring, work-hour reduction'

Rota Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Victor Hocog admitted yesterday that, with the serious financial state of the local economy, appropriating supplemental funding to bridge the \$160,000 personnel shortfall in the municipality is not feasible.

Hocog is counting on a portion of stimulus money that the CNMI may get from the Public School System's ARRA as the answer to all shortfalls until end of fiscal year.

"That's one way to take care of the problem," Hocog said.

While waiting for this solution, Rota Mayor Joseph Inos should freeze all

vacant and retired positions so he can keep all his 99 employees, he added.

The lawmaker said there are around 400 individuals employed in government and autonomous agencies on Rota.

If the measure is not enough to keep all personnel afloat, the delegation chairman said the municipality could also adjust the current working hours of 80 biweekly to 64 hours—if there's a great need to do it.

"The objective is to prevent any termination and layoff among Rota personnel," Hocog added.

Meantime, the Tinian Legislative Delegation, through chairman Sen. Joseph Mendiola, would like to first assess and study all viable options that could help address the budget shortfall of the island's municipality.

He said yesterday that reduced work hours for employees is also among the possibilities.

Prior to implementing austerity measures that would directly affect employees, Mendiola said the delegation would first look into tapping the operational budget to augment the shortfall in personnel funds.

The senator said that freeze hiring or furlough may be good options but he is iffy about fully supporting the idea, considering the essential departments and agencies like the clinic.

Tinian had initiated internal austerity measures since the previous year. Besides reducing its utility consumption, Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas had also enforced work-hour reductions several times in the past.

Pangelinan pushes for more female lawmakers

By KRISTI EATON

Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Maria Pangelinan said she would like to see the Legislature reflect the demographics of the electorate, increasing the number of women legislators.

Pangelinan, one of three woman lawmakers holding of-

fice in the 16th Legislature, said there are many young, smart and well-educated women in the Commonwealth who should pursue becoming lawmakers.

However, new women legislators do face unique challenges, she said.

"There are rules, both written and unwritten, that must

be learned, and a support group of peers is not always immediately available," she said. "At first, I think she may have to work harder to be heard, to be taken seriously and prove her value through substantive contributions to policy making."

Women have a different per-

spective and life experiences to pull from as lawmakers, the senator said.

"Women tend to be peacemakers and negotiators," she said. "Many of the skills one learns running a household and raising children are valuable tools for making one's way in the lawmaking process."

One of the most useful skill is listening, and really hearing what is being said."

Pangelinan, who was named the chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee for the 16th Legislature, said women "bring more balance and consensus building to the government by inserting feminine point[s] of view into the policy-making process and using the cultural strength of CNMI

women to make sure all voices are heard in a discussion before a decision is made or a vote taken."

Pangelinan was responding to questions from a student about a woman's role in politics in the CNMI.

Besides Pangelinan, Rep. Tina Sablan and Rep. Rosemond Santos are the other female lawmakers in the 16th Legislature.

'Poaching remains a big threat to turtle decline'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Poaching remains the biggest threat to the continuing decline of turtle populations in the Pacific, including the Northern Mariana Islands, where no single person has ever been prosecuted despite stricter laws.

According to fishery biologist Irene Kinan Kelly of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the best way to combat this problem is to re-instill in the present generation traditional practices, along with proper enforcement.

"Chiefs in the past have their own effective way of preserving the turtles," she said.

Kelly is the Sea Turtle Re-

covery Coordinator for the Protected Resources Division of the Pacific Islands Regional Office under the National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA.

Kelly made a presentation about the program at the Division of Fish and Wildlife conference room yesterday.



Kelly

"I'm here to do a cite visit and show our full support to the turtle program in the CNMI," Kelly said after the presentation.

Those who attended the presentation were directors John Joyner of the Coastal Resource Management office and Sylvan Igisomar of DFW and some of their staff.

Kelly said her visit aims to help stakeholders better understand the program and direct them to be able to meet

local objectives.

"We have to really protect the turtles and preserve them for the future," said Kelly, who is leaving today for a similar visit to Guam.

While the full protection of sea turtles is guaranteed under the Convention on International

Trade in Endangered Species, poaching is prevalent in the Pacific, including in the CNMI.

Green, hawksbill and leatherback sea turtles are included on the list of protected species under the Endangered Species Act and are known to inhabit the waters around the Mari-

anas archipelago.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council reported that about 1,000-2,000 green sea turtles forage in the CNMI.

This data was based on nearshore surveys conducted jointly between the CNMI-DFW and the NMFS around the southern islands.

WPR-FMC notes that the

green sea turtle is a traditional food of the native population and although harvesting them is illegal, divers have been known to take them at sea and others have been taken as nesting females.

Taking of adult female turtles during nesting season is strictly prohibited under the law.

"Turtle eggs are also harvested in the CNMI," it said.

ACT president election delayed

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The incumbent leader of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers, Betty Miller, will have to remain at her post for a few more months following the postponement of the group's election of new officers.

Saipan Tribune learned that the election of new ACT officers was postponed to a later date due to the absence of the election officer.

"We had to postpone that, as our election chair is going off island for medical purposes," Miller told Saipan Tribune.

According to the association's bylaws, the election of new officers must be completed by April 28 each year.

Miller said the April 28 deadline was put in place to ensure an election before the school year ends, which used to be in May.

Since the current school year has been extended to mid-June, she said the group does not anticipate any major difficulties in delaying the election for a brief period.

However, Miller said they will be holding an election for president and treasurer, and are still accepting candidate nominations.

So far, no candidate has yet to come forward and signify an interest to run for the position.

Miller was retained in the position after no one came forward to run against her last year. ACT called for an election thrice to encourage partic-

ipation of other school teachers and educators on island.

Miller's appointment as the CNMI teachers' representative to the Board of Education has been delayed for more than a year due to some constitutional issues.

After the term of former teachers' representative Ambrose Bennett expired in January 2007, no one has been sitting on the board to represent public school teachers.

'Far from being resolved'

The appointment of a teacher representative to the Education Board is far from being resolved after the BOE admitted that that it won't take any action on the issue until the governor formally respond to its numerous letters discussing the long-delayed appointment of a qualified candidate.

Naming Bennett's successor was delayed due to different interpretations of the statute that requires a "collective bargaining agent" from public school teachers.

The Fitial administration earlier said the law mandates the board and the PSS teachers to select a nominee from the collective bargaining agent of public school teachers.

However, the board decided not to "meddle" in the appointment as the appointing authority is the governor.

ACT earlier said that resolution of the issue may be reached through new legislation.

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\$11,185.89

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VIP Services
(670) 328-2285
"Bet with your head, not over it"

Saipan, Tinian gear up for conference of mayors

Municipal officials from Guam and Saipan met Monday and Tuesday with key government officials to finalize arrangements for hosting hundreds of delegates for the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference, which is about two weeks away.

Meeting with the mayors in the conference room of his Senate offices, Senate President Pete P. Reyes thanked the mayors for bringing the conference to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and promised to do all that he could to make the event a success.

Reyes met Monday with Paul M. McDonald, president of the Association of Pacific Island Local Governments, which is putting on the conference, and Antonia M. Tudela, chairwoman of the Saipan Municipal Council, and head of the steering committee for the event.

"I find this year's theme, 'Maximizing Municipal Muscle', extremely encouraging," Reyes said. "As we face the global economic downturn together, it will take cooperation across all levels of government to turn economies around. Municipal governments are on the front lines of this effort."

Demapan sets sights on Saipan mayoralty

Former Senate president Juan S. Demapan announced Tuesday that he is seeking the nomination as the candidate for mayor of Saipan under the Covenant Party for this November elections.

Demapan believes he possesses the attributes necessary to best serve the people of Saipan, based on long years of public and private sector service, technical education, and "love of the Mariana Islands and its people."

Demapan served in the CNMI first Constitutional Convention

McDonald and Tudela also met with officials from the CNMI Governor's Office to go over security, hospitality and protocol matters.

Along with hundreds of mayors, the APILG expects two governors to attend from the Philippines and at least one Cabinet-level official.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial gave his blessing to the conference: "I'm in full support of this conference and will render any kind of support that's needed to make it happen," Fitial told McDonald earlier this month.

Tudela said, "We look forward to working with mayors from around the region to put together this event for the Association of Pacific Island Local Governments. This is a great opportunity to showcase our wonderful islands of Saipan and Tinian and to make friendships with other public servants from around the Pacific Rim."

The 2nd Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference is the regular membership meeting of the APILG. Its membership comprises mayors, city officials and municipal council members from around the Pacific Rim. Last year's confer-

ence in Guam attracted more than 450 delegates.

The conference is scheduled for Mayor 14 to 17 in Garapan, Saipan, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, with conference training sessions and speeches on May 14 and 15. Conference officials will be hosted on Saturday, May 16, on Tinian by the Tinian Municipal Council and the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Among conference highlights are addresses by Fitial; Capt. Ulysses O. Zalamea, deputy director of the U.S. Department of Defense's Joint Guam Program Office (forward); Maya B. Kara and Bruce Mailman, partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara LLC; Arnold I. Palacios, speaker of the CNMI House of Representatives; and Herbert Johnston, education director of the Guam Trades Academy.

There will also be a trade fair in conjunction with the conference at the Fiesta Resort.

The Tinian trip will include a feast on the beach, a cockfight derby, and a special mayors' poker tournament at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Tan Holdings Corp. and Bank of Guam are gold sponsors of the

in the training and employment of all unemployed CNMI citizens who are able and willing to work; to beautify and landscape all roads and highways on Saipan; to help reduce the cost of electric power for all people; and to help reduce the cost of consumer goods and petroleum fuel.

"As the next of Mayor of Saipan, I am committed to making Saipan first again, where no ones is left behind. It is all about making Saipan and its people first," he said. (PR)

conference; Joeten Enterprises, Bank of Saipan, Continental Airlines, and the Association of

Marianas Mayors and Elected Council Members are silver sponsors; and bronze sponsors

are Saipan Shipping Co., J's Restaurant, SmithBridge Guam Inc., and Kautz Glass Co. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senate President Pete P. Reyes, left, meets April 28 with Antonia M. Tudela, chairwoman of the Saipan Municipal Council and head of the steering committee for the mayors' conference; and Paul M. McDonald, mayor of Agana Heights, Guam, and president of the Association of Pacific Island Local Governments, about support from the 16th CNMI Legislature for the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference.

Planned Micronesian anthology calls for submissions

The Center for Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is calling for submissions for a planned anthology of Micronesian writing.

The Center is soliciting submissions of written work by indigenous writers from Micronesia, including the islands of Guam, Saipan and the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Nauru for possible inclusion in this first anthology focused specifically on this region of the Pacific Islands.

The deadline for submission is on Monday, June 1, 2009.

Submissions process

1) Send samples of your best work including poetry, short stories, one-act plays, essays,

and excerpts from novels or memoirs. Shorter works are encouraged to allow room for a number of authors. Previously published work will be accepted as long as you retain the copyrights to the work and provide information on the place where the work was previously published (name of periodical, date and volume).

2) The submissions will be blind-reviewed by a panel of writers and editors who will make the final selections for the anthology.

3) Should any of your work be chosen, you will be notified within six months of the specific pieces to be used, including any suggestions by the Review Panel.

Submission packet should include:

1) A cover page with a) your name, b) titles of your submitted work, 3) the date of submission and 4) your contact information;

2) Typed samples of your best work (do not place your name on these); place your best pieces on top of the packet; 3) Your author biography and photo: A brief author biography of no more than 400 words and a publishable photo;

4) Your biography should include your island identity and your cultural identity since the anthology will be foregrounding indigenous writers of the region. For example: I am from Guam, and I am Chamoru or I am from Belau and I am Yapese.

Four Rota beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on four beach sites on Rota and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples taken from the Mobil storm drain, East Harbor dock, West Harbor dock and District 2 storm drainage showed excessive concentra-

5) Your contact information including:

- A. Mailing address
- B. E-mail address
- C. Phone number

E-Mail submissions: E-mail is the preferred way of submission. Send your submission packet by Monday, June 1, 2009, to the editors, Dr. Evelyn Flores or Emelhter Kihleng, at microanthology@gmail.com.

Submissions by mail: If submitting by mail or courier, Submission Packets must be postmarked June 1, 2009. Manuscripts and other materials will *not* be returned.

Send three (3) copies of your Submission Packet to:

Dr. Evelyn Flores, Editor
Micronesian Anthology
Division of English and Applied Linguistics
University of Guam
UOG Station
Mangilao, Guam 96923

Notifications and queries

The center will get back to the authors with a decision within three to six months, barring the usual supertyphoons and power failures. If you haven't heard from us by then, e-mail the editors at microanthology@gmail.com for the status of your submission. Each author whose work is accepted for publication will receive two copies of the anthology. (PR)

DEQ analyzed water samples taken from 12 locations on Rota this week as part of routine sampling. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, through a grant from the Office of Homeland Security, is requesting for proposals for the design/build of one (1) generator with controls and housing to be situated at the Port of Saipan.

An on site pre-proposal meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30 at 3:30 pm at the Port of Saipan Conference Room at the Seaport Administrative Building. The project scope of work and location of the generator will be discussed. Therefore, attendance is a requirement for submission of proposal.

Proposals are to be submitted to the Executive Director's office at the Saipan International Airport office no later than 4:00 pm on May 29, 2009.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special BOE-HP (Board of Education and Head Start Policy Council) Meeting on Friday, May 1, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at the Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments¹
- III. New Business
 - a. Head Start 2009-2010 Supplemental Grant Application
 - b. Head Start 2009-2010 Calendar
 - c. Recommendations to Expend Anticipated Surplus
 - d. Special Education Part B and C Grant Applications
 - e. Comments re HB 16-129 HS1, SD2
- IV. Adjournment

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

TOYS
20% - 50%
OFF
(SELECTED ONLY)

Sara Market II

CAPITOL HILL • 322-9596

Pre Mother's day Special

APRIL 30 TO MAY 10, 2009 • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS
10% - 25%
OFF
(SELECTED ONLY)

SHOP & LEAVE TOTALLY COMPLETE

FOOD STAMPS WELCOME • FRIENDLY SERVICE • EVERYDAY LOW PRICE
SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER • PRICES CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Lag Quarter

22 LBS. **\$15⁹⁹**
33 LBS. **\$19⁹⁹**

Whole Chicken

LIMIT 1 CASE
\$33⁹⁹

Young Spare Ribs

10 LBS.
\$13⁹⁹

Pork Spareribs

BBQ Adobo Cut
20 LBS.
\$14⁹⁹

Beef Spare Ribs

20 LBS.
\$22⁹⁹

Pork Riblets

10 LBS.
\$11⁹⁹

Mackerel

PACIFIC 22.4 LBS. **\$20⁹⁹**
PIKE 22.07 LBS. **\$23⁹⁹**

Chorizos

4 lbs. 64 oz.
\$24⁹⁹

Puriss Water

24 pcs.
\$4⁹⁹
/CASE

Jasmine Lotus Rice

50 LBS.
(LIMIT 1 SACK)
\$24⁹⁹

Diamond G Calrose Rice

50 LBS.
(LIMIT 2)
\$32⁹⁹

Ichiban

Limit 1 CASE
\$7⁹⁹

Turkey Tail

20 lbs.
\$15⁹⁹

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Gusto Ham

10 lbs.
\$16⁹⁹

Miller Sausage

5 lbs.
\$14⁹⁵

Chamorro Sausage

Reg/Hot 1 lb.
\$4⁴⁹

Bar-S Bacon

1 lb.
\$2⁴⁹

Spam 12 oz.

LESS SALT & REGULAR ONLY
LIMIT 12
\$1⁹⁹
\$2²⁵ ALL OTHER FLAVORS

Black Label Luncheon Meat

12 oz.
\$1³⁹

Libby's Vienna Sausage

5 oz.
69¢

Beach Cliff Sardines

3.75 oz.
89¢

Ox & Palm Corned Beef

11.5 oz.
LIMIT 6
\$2²⁹

Bar-S Hotdog

1 lb.
\$1⁰⁹

West Bay Crabmeat

Imitation 1 lb.
\$1⁹⁹

Ground Beef

5 LBS. **\$9⁹⁹**
10 LBS. **\$16⁹⁹**

Bar-S Ham

10 lbs.
\$17⁹⁹

Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash

15 oz.
\$1⁹⁹

Hormel Chili No Beans

15 oz.
2 FOR **\$3⁰⁰**

DM Beef Stew

15 oz.
2 FOR **\$3⁰⁰**

Master A1 Tuna

7 oz. Limit 6
99¢

3 Diamond Tuna

\$1⁰⁹

Mackarel Family Bag

\$5⁹⁹

Peeled Shrimp SC Brand

1 lb.
\$2⁹⁹

Seafood Mix Log

Feng Brand 1 lb.
\$2⁵⁹

Blue Crab Section

Per Box
\$8⁹⁵

Sun Flower Mackerel

15 oz.
\$1⁵⁹

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup

10.7 oz.
99¢

Cream of Mushroom

10 3/4 oz.
99¢

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn

89¢

Carnation Evaporated Milk

12 oz.
\$1¹⁹

Vega Shrimp

1 lb.
\$4⁹⁹

Imperial Choice Green Mussels

2 lbs.
\$4⁹⁹

Chicken Wings

5.5 lbs.
\$9⁹⁹
/PACK

Milk Fish

\$1⁴⁹

Crisco All Vegetable Shortening

3 lbs.
\$4⁹⁹

Dragon Veg. Oil

1 Gal.
\$7⁴⁹

Vegetable Oil

5 Gal. LIMIT 1
\$24⁹⁹

Golden State Vinegar

1 Gal.
\$2⁹⁹

Crisco Pure Corn

64 oz.
\$7⁹⁹

Tilapia

\$9⁹⁹

U.S. Extra Large Eggs

Dozen
\$1⁹⁹

Onion

79¢
/LB

Garlic

89¢
/BUNDLES

Vlasic Dill Pickles (Spears)

1 Gal.
\$5⁹⁹

Kikkoman

1.6 L.
\$3⁷⁹

Lemon Powder

5.29 oz.
\$4⁹⁹

Gold Medal Flour

5 lbs. Limit 4 pcs.
\$2⁹⁹

Maseca

4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc.
\$4⁹⁹

Korean Butane Gas

LIMIT 1 Case
3 days only (4/30 - 5/2)
\$19⁹⁹
/CASE

Foam Cups

51 cts.
\$1⁹⁹

Bounty Basic

8 Rolls
\$8⁹⁹

Bounty 15 Rolls

\$19⁹⁹

Foam Plates

125 ct.
\$6⁹⁹

Spoon & Fork

No Brand Name 100 cts.
\$1²⁹

Horse Shampoo

1 qt.
2 FOR **\$3⁰⁰**

Bottled White Candle

12 pcs/case
\$13⁹⁹
/CASE

Drypers (All Size) Mega Pack

\$14⁹⁹

Luvs Big Pack (All Size)

\$19⁹⁹

Coco Mackerel

15 oz.
\$1²⁹

Sugar

2 kg.
\$1⁴⁹

Morton Iodized Salt

26 oz.
59¢

Folgers Classic Roast

39 oz.
\$9⁹⁹

Coffee-Mate Creamer

50 oz.
\$7⁹⁹

Moist Deluxe Except Yellow Classic Cake

18.25 oz.
2 FOR **\$3⁰⁰**

Kraft Cool Whip

8 oz. **\$1⁹⁹**
16 oz. **\$3⁵⁰**

Albers Yellow Corn Meal

1 lb.
\$1⁹⁹

Argo Corn Starch

\$1⁰⁹

Nissin Cup Noodles

12 pcs.
\$5⁹⁵

Cottonelle Single 24 rolls Tissue

\$8⁹⁹

Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft.

\$5⁹⁹

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

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|----------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| BEEF SHANK | \$10.95 | BEEF BACK RIBS | \$7.95 |
| FLANK STEAK | \$16.95 | BEEF OXTAIL | \$16.95 |
| PORK ADOBO | \$10.95 | BEEF STEW | \$12.95 |
| PORK CHOP | \$11.95 | RIBEYE STEAK | \$17.95 |
| PORK BELLY | \$11.95 | BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK | \$14.95 |
| STEWING CHICKEN | \$6.95 | SMOKED HAM STEAK | \$12.95 |
| TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG) | \$4.99 | PORK BUTT | \$10.95 |
| U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS | \$13.99 | | |

Nestea Iced Tea

36 qts.
\$7⁹⁹

Tang

22 qts.
\$5⁹⁹

Kool-Aid

32 oz.
\$7⁹⁹

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only

\$5⁹⁹

Whole Chicken

Can 50 oz.
\$5⁹⁹

Real Fresh Milk (Regular only)

\$20⁹⁹
/CASE
236 ml. **\$16⁹⁹**

Chamorro Punch

1 Gal.
\$8⁹⁹

Enfamil

25.7
\$26⁹⁹

Coke Regular

24/Case Warm Only
\$12⁹⁹

Shasta Drinks 112oz All Flavor (warm only)

\$12⁹⁹

Pepsi Regular Warm Only

\$16⁹⁹
/CASE

Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only

4 days only (4/30 - 5/3)
\$25⁹⁹

NON-FOOD

| | |
|---|--------------|
| SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS) | \$4.99 |
| CHARMIN (24 ROLLS) | \$8.99 |
| GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS) | \$19.95 |
| GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.) | \$16.95 |
| JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.) | \$6.99 |
| SWAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.) | 2 FOR \$3.00 |
| PLATINUM NAPKIN (360 CTS) | \$3.99 |

Saipan Laulau donates \$5K to NMC

The Saipan LauLau Development Inc., which owns and operates LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort, a 36-hole golf course designed by Greg Norman, recently presented a \$5,000 donation to the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

"We are extremely supportive of the Northern Marianas College's mission to provide higher education opportunities for CNMI students," said Yun Kim, president and chief financial officer of Saipan Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

The donation was made as part of the qualifying certificate program, which calls for Saipan LauLau Development Inc. to make public benefit contributions to community-based public programs and activities. It was also made in support of the upcoming Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament.

"We look forward to continuing our partnership with the college in many other ways, including the provision of internship opportunities and job placement possibilities," Kim added.

"Saipan Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's contribution will go a long way in helping to improve the quality of programs and services that are offered at NMC,"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Laolao Bay Golf and Resort president and chief financial officer Yun Kim, second from left, presents a \$5,000 donation to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, second from right, and NMC Foundation president Vicente "Ben" Babauta, far right. Also in photo is Saipan Laolao Bay Gold general manager Tet-suya Matsunaga, far left.

said NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone postsecondary educational institution. The organization is composed of

individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

"The college is deeply appreciative of Saipan Laolao's donation," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Saipan Laolao will play host to the upcoming 7th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament, scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2009. All proceeds from the tournament will be used to support NMC's educational programs and services. (NMC)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 30, 1999

Tourism slump eases

After showing a consistent decline since Asia's financial crisis begun in July 1997, the Marianas Visitors Authority revealed that visitor arrivals has finally showed a slight improvement in March with a two percent increase, or a total of 44,249 compared to the same period last year. However, overall visitor arrivals record for the first six months of Fiscal Year 1999 is still 14 percent down compared to the same period of the previous year. The new arrivals record was released as Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio declared May as the tourism month to emphasize its importance to the Commonwealth as a source of revenues. During the proclamation signing, the governor noted the benefits derived from tourism, which include increased employment and promotion of inter-cultural understanding and education.

\$16 million PSS bond sold

After two years of delay, the Public School System, backed by the Commonwealth Development Authority, finally sold \$15.6 million worth of bonds, paving the way for the implementation of stalled construction projects for the education sector. The bond will match the local requirements for the funding of projects under the Section 702 of the Covenant, which has been derailed by cash shortage. In a telephone conference held yesterday at CDA, executives from the Paine Webber and the California Financial Services confirmed the sale of the bond, ending two years of negotiations.

April 30, 2001

Anti-drug inspection beefed up

The CNMI Division of Customs has stepped up its anti-drug campaign by increasing the number of personnel deployed in several ports of entry to conduct surveillance and inspection of baggage. On Tinian, customs officers are seen conducting random inspection on arriving passengers including visiting tourists to check hand-carry bags and packages for possible entry of illegal drugs on island. Sniffing dogs are stationed at the San Jose Harbor on Tinian to detect uncontrolled substance possibly in possession of arriving visitors and residents through the ferry.

House body reviewing anti-prostitution bill

The House Committee on Health and Welfare is now refining the amended version of the existing anti-sex trade law, which was conceived due to reports of widespread prostitution practices especially at the Western Garapan district. Rep. Malua T. Peter said her committee is strictly reviewing the proposed amendment to ensure that concerns raised by the Commonwealth's law enforcement agencies are properly addressed. Ms. Peter said all proposals, including those that came from business organizations and the Department of Public Safety, were carefully considered for inclusion in the amended version of the anti-prostitution law.

April 30, 2002

Eyesore on Saipan beach

As she walked near the pathway along Beach Road, Marcy, a Saipan resident, noticed the abundance of brownish plant-like stuff on the shallow waters of the beach. She quickly reacted with a grin and said, "Of course not!", when asked if she would like to swim there, which would have been refreshing on a hot, sunny day. "It looks dirty," she added. What Marcy actually saw were dead seagrass that have invaded Saipan's beaches stretching from across the pathway along Beach Road to the San Jose area. Division of Environmental Quality marine biologist Peter Houk, said the abundance of seagrass indicates the quality of water on the beach. If the grasses are abundant, it means that there are a lot of nutrients, he explained.

Heinz cuts working hours of staff in wake of budget cuts

Setting the stage for the expected cutbacks in third and fourth quarter allotments, House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider disclosed that, starting yesterday, his office has begun instituting two-hour cuts in the working schedule of his staff, which means that his office will close by 2:30pm. In a general meeting held at the House chamber, Hofschneider also urged his fellow lawmakers to review their respective budgetary situations and implement the same cutbacks-whether a cut in the salaries or in the working hours of their personnel. The meeting was attended by lawmakers, their respective staff and personnel and employees of the Legislative Bureau.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP09-CHC-082

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"MEDICAL COORDINATOR PROVIDER IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M. ON MAY 18, 2009 AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM. ALL INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO **MR. RONALD D. SABLAN**, MANAGER, MEDICAL REFERRAL SERVICES BY FAX TO (670) 236-8604 OR VIA E-MAIL AT cmefrefson@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **MAY 21, 2009 CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

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/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP09-CGC-087

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 28, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"PROFESSIONAL CLINIC SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MS. JOSEPHINE T. SABLAN, DIRECTOR OR MS. JENNIFER FUREY-MARATITA, ACTING CLINICAL SERVICES MANAGER BY FAX TO (670) 323-6580 OR VIA E-MAIL AT cgc1@dphegc.com NO LATER THAN **MAY 18, 2009 CLOSE TO BUSINESS.**

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/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID ITB09-DPS-090

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 18, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES / 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - TINIAN & 2-DPS-POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION - ROTA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Port of Saipan
CAPT. GEORGE F. FLEMING MEMORIAL BUILDING
Phone: (670) 664-3550 Fax: (670) 322-4710
E-Mail Address: cpa.portadmin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID

Bid No. CPA SS-09-V

"Sale of Government Property"

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is inviting interested individuals or firms to bid on the following vehicle:

2002 Ford Explorer 5WGN 6 Cylinder Engine

Interested individuals or firms may pick-up the general information and forms at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Port of Saipan building at the Seaport. Bidders are also advised to inspect the property. All interested bidders should submit bid documents no later than May 15, 2009, 4:00 p.m., to:

Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
Saipan International Airport
2nd Floor Arrival Building

Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID ITB09-DEQ-091

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 22, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S



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San Vicente Road
Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Have piano, will walk

For those who hoped that America's standing in the world would immediately rebound when the Bush administration rode into the sunset, Sunday night's furor at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles must have been a disappointment. After playing a Bach partita and Beethoven's last piano sonata, followed by a riveting Polish nationalist sonata, the pianist Krystian Zimerman announced that he would no longer play in the U.S. because of its objectionable military policies overseas.

In his soft-spoken but apparently angry comments, the 52-year-old Pole, widely regarded as one of our era's greatest pianists, attacked the U.S. military for seeking to "control the world." He made reference to the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, and then called on the United States to "get your hands off my country."

The reaction was instantaneous. About 40 people stood up and walked out. Others booed (while still others applauded). After the Los Angeles Times posted the story on its Web site, hundreds of comments appeared, veering toward the negative. One read: "Go Zimerman, and take the Dixie Chicks with you." Another suggested that Zimerman should "do what any good pianist would do: Shut up and play."

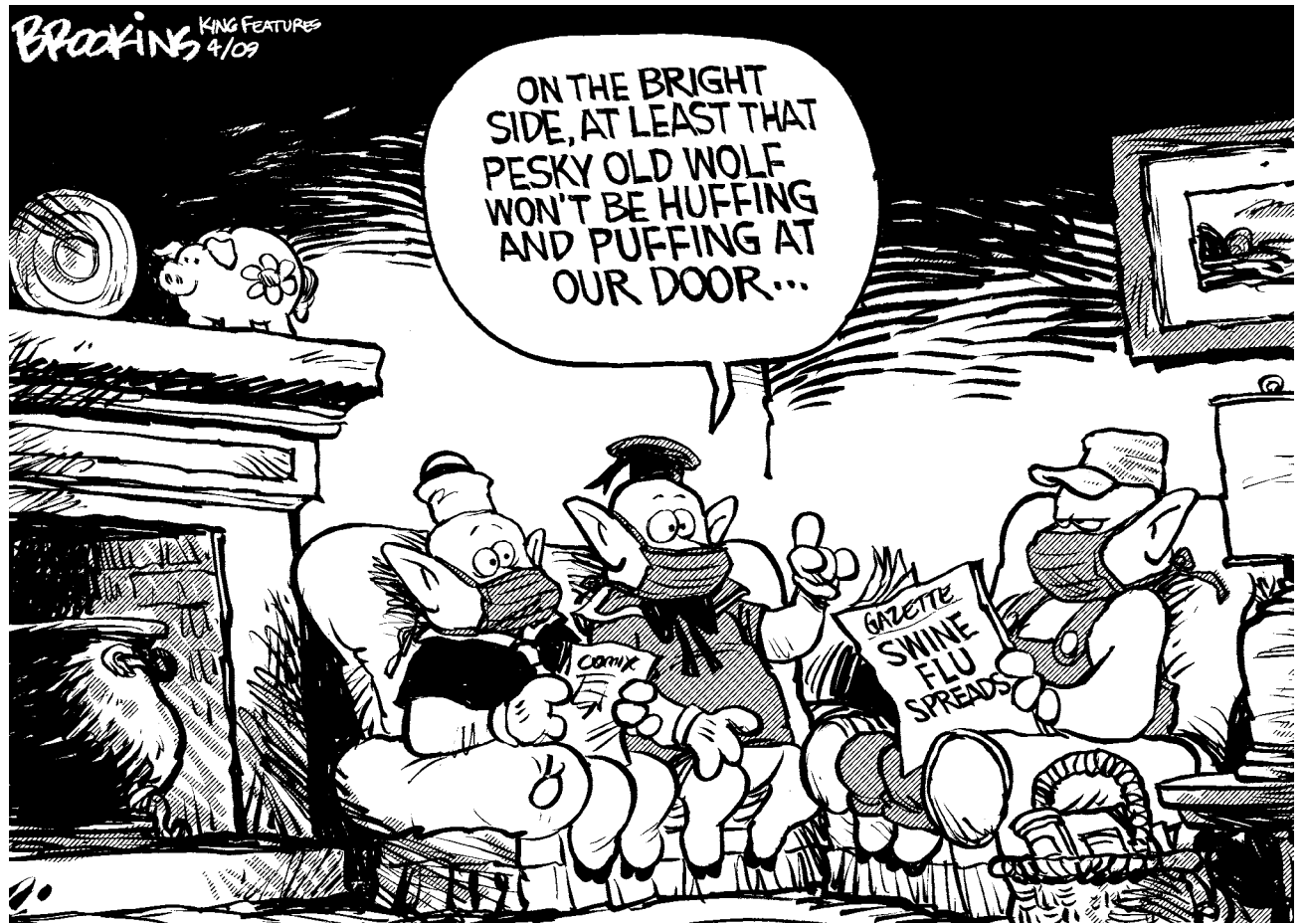
But Zimerman's entrance into the political fray was hardly unique. Consider his countryman, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the pianist and composer who became so involved in Polish politics that he was elected prime minister in 1919. Or composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, who refused to accept an award at the White House from President George H.W. Bush in 1989.

Many commenters at latimes.com seemed to think that Zimerman should have expressed gratitude that the U.S. "rescued" his nation from Soviet domination. But Zimerman no doubt had more recent events on his mind. The U.S. has said it will base interceptor missiles in Poland as part of its controversial missile defense plan. And in recent years, the CIA is believed to have operated one of its "black site" secret prisons in Poland.

Apparently, the Obama election will not instantly rehabilitate the U.S. "A lot of people think that when they choose the next president, suddenly everything will be forgotten," Zimerman said last year. "I think that when the damage is done, first you have to undo the damage." You don't have to accept all his criticisms to recognize that he speaks for many around the world.

Zimerman had a stage, and he used it. Those who objected and voted with their feet have every right to boycott his music. May such debates always be with us. Meanwhile, it's sad that his artistry will not be heard in the U.S.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Saipan then and now

Post-war island economic history in a nutshell

Last of a four-part series

Building a 21st century future

The islands have had to overcome some tremendous obstacles in their quest for economic growth. They had a small indigenous population and thus a small domestic market fragmented over three inhabited islands. There were no known readily exploitable natural resources in the traditional sense other than those of the sea. The islands were, and still are, located far from major sources of supply and foreign markets. Both raw materials and exported products (of which there were none) were subject to high freight rates. Jet aircraft was not that frequent a visitor and thus had not become a major contributing factor in disjoining one's concept of time and space in the vastness of the Pacific cosmos. In those days the air was filled with invisible waves transmitting teletype, telex, and radio signals from every corner of the world but the messages they carried were largely unheard by many. Walter Cronkite's CBS News was 10 days late in reaching Saipan and when received was aired in black and white originating from WSZE TV, the small television station on Navy Hill that glowed to life about 6pm and went off the air around midnight or earlier to the sound of the National Anthem. Mail from the U.S. East Coast took 10 or 12 days. Some things never change.

It's unfortunate the politicians have gotten themselves into the current situation since the islands have so much potential but fall so far short of achieving that potential. I do not know of any other government in the world that would permit so many nonresident aliens to invest in such a small economy at the expense of depriving its own citizens the opportunity to enter businesses that should have, at least in my opinion, been reserved for local implementation.

I have a friend who lives on the eastern side of Saipan on a little plot of land he refers to as a ranch. His house is a small structure with a tin roof, he has a pickup, a few chickens, pigs, and a goat and grows a few vegetables. He's happy and really doesn't need anything and is quite satisfied with his lifestyle. Like some other local people on the islands, he is not—and has never been—a direct participant in the island's tourism-based economy. He probably couldn't care less that the garment industry died or whether the tourism sector rises or falls; it makes little difference to him.

That in my mind is a basic issue: Too many local people were left out of the private sector for too long. Even to the extent of permitting non-U.S. citizens and others to take over the mom-and-pop neighborhood stores, gift shops and other small entry-type businesses. Hindsight being what it is, in my judgment this should never have been allowed to the extent—and to the degree—which occurred. In my judgment many such businesses (not all) should have been reserved for the time when a local person stepped forward to implement the activity.

Geographic isolation and cost has served to limit cultural and

By **WILLIAM H. STEWART**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



economic exposure of many residents. Too many local people have been confined to the islands without the benefit of travel to other tourist destinations. Result: Many have nothing to compare Saipan with another successful tourist destinations such as Bermuda, Bahamas, the Greek Islands, etc. They simply don't know and have no vision as to what an island tourist destination could be and the satisfaction and benefits by participating more directly in the economy.

In any case, no one ever said it's a perfect world. If some of the constraints to additional investment are to be overcome, or mitigated, at least the starting point should be that they be recognized. In the final analysis it's their island—the bones of their ancestors are buried here—they will make of it what suits them.

Today the Marianas archipelago, situated in a universe of water, are the farthest stars out in the American galaxy, a political affiliation few could have foreseen several decades ago. I'm beginning to suspect—truth be known—that the U.S. Congress is not all that familiar with the nation's newest affiliated political entity and doesn't quite know what its long-term policy should be toward the islands.

I personally believe the NMI will overcome its present economic difficulties and with the wise counsel of Greg Sablan, the NMI delegate to the U.S. Congress and others, the United States will continue to assist the people to develop the islands to their full economic potential.

The islands have certain advantages provided by their geographic proximity to the vast markets of Asia, including the one great advantage of economic stability provided by American law which is the absolute bedrock of stability upon which confidence rests and which creates the investment atmosphere permitting individuals and businesses to prosper and grow.

Editor's Note: Bill Stewart is a former senior economist for the NMI and has privately authored several books including Saipan In Flames, a World War II account; the Business Reference and Investment Guide to the CNMI and several hundred thousand tourist and historical maps of Saipan, Tinian and Rota distributed free by MVA and island businesses. His other investment promotional materials published by the government include Introducing the Northern Mariana Islands: An American Doorstep to Asia and Tourism Investment Opportunities in the NMI.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mind your manners

Have you ever noticed how rude some people behave? Manners that used to be common in society and among business people are either lost or forgotten. Manners, sometimes called “etiquette,” are polite ways of behaving in a particular social or professional situation that demonstrate respect for yourself, other people, or your environment. By exhibiting good manners, you show that you feel someone, something, or some place is important and worth treating well. In essence, everyone craves the need to feel important and to be treated with respect.

Agreements used to be made on someone’s word and a handshake because commitments were kept. If someone told you they would visit or call, you could count on it. Service providers like air conditioner, water delivery, stove or refrigerator repair people are notorious for not showing up when they say they’re going to arrive.

We were raised in homes that taught us to treat everyone with the same amount of respect and to keep our word to people. If we went over to someone’s house we were taught that if we made a mess, we were expected to tidy up the place before we left. Trash was never thrown out of the car window or on the ground, but kept until it could be thrown in a trash receptacle. It’s still indelibly etched into our minds, and we’ve tried to teach our children the same things, but it gets more difficult when they see their friends and others doing the opposite.

Today there just doesn’t seem to be a common code of conduct that is followed by civil people. It seems okay to tell people you are going to do something when you have no intention of following through on your word. Trash is found everywhere you look, and people make a mess and just leave it without attempting to clean up.

If we’re not careful, the word “manners” may disappear entirely from our vocabulary. In order to preserve some manners, here are a

few for your consideration:

1. Keep your commitments. If you tell someone you are going to do something at a certain time, then make sure to do it, or call and notify the person in the event that you are late or need to reschedule. Honor your commitments to others and to yourself.

2. Phone call etiquette. Answer the phone with a greeting and state your name. If someone calls while you are out, return the call in a timely manner. If you answer the phone and it’s for someone else who is not there, make sure to write down the caller’s name and number, and promptly give it to the intended person.

3. The same goes for e-mails. Send a quick response to people so they know you received the e-mail. If they request information, follow-through on the response in a timely manner, or let them know that it may take a few days to get back to them.

4. Practice using polite phrases such as “thank you,” “pardon me,” “excuse me” and “please” to friends and strangers. You can’t go wrong by being too polite.

5. Clean up after your mess at the beach, park, or at a friend’s house if you’ve been there to visit or eat. If you have children and they helped make a mess, then teach them to help clean up before leaving.

6. Consider and value other people’s privacy. If you are on your cell phone, talk softly if you are in public so that it doesn’t interrupt others. Turn the cell phone off at movies and other inappropriate places. Don’t play your music so loud that it disturbs others. If someone tells you something personal, don’t discuss it with other people without the confider’s permission.

7. Avoid offensive behavior. Be considerate of the rights of others and avoid offending others in public by the way you talk, dress, or behave. Show the same respect you would hope others would

By Rik and Janel Villegas

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



have for you.

8. Be courteous to others. Open doors, especially if someone has their hands full. If someone is right behind you with one or two items in the grocery line, allow them to go before you if you have a cart full of food. Don’t cut in line without the permission of others in front of you.

9. Don’t interrupt other’s conversations. If you approach two people talking, pause and wait to join the conversation at the appropriate time rather than just rudely butting in. This is a common lack of courtesy among children and adults.

10. Take as much as you need, but leave the rest for others. If you are eating, be considerate of the amount of food available so others will be able to get enough food also.

11. Save energy and money. Turn off lights, water, television, fans, or anything else that costs someone money, even if you don’t have to pay for it.

12. Respect other’s time. Don’t assume your time is more important than anyone else, even if you are a doctor, lawyer, or ranking businessperson. Be early to appointments or meetings so you don’t make others wait.

Letters to the Editor

Justice served

A big “Si Yu’us Ma’ase” goes out to the jurors and the witnesses who stood up to and spoke up about what is right. You didn’t let the title of “lieutenant governor” or the family name supersede the right to justice. You are all brave individuals who have brought hope and belief back to the islands and its justice system. You all did a brave thing by speaking the truth when called as a witness and you did a brave thing by making an informed educated decision to pronounce the “guilty” verdict.

Now if only our elected officials would see the truth. Governor and Senate President, why are you offering your sympathy and condolences to people who have stolen from me, you, and all CUC-paying customers of the CNMI? If these individuals had literally entered our homes and stolen our televisions, computers, cars, etc., I hope you would want “justice served.” Well, these people did enter our homes and took from us our hard-earned money that went to pay our CUC bills. These people left us in the dark on many a night (literally and figuratively) when it was too hot to get any rest, when we were afraid to buy frozen meats because we didn’t know if the icebox was going to be on or off, when we were afraid to sleep in fear our oxygen supply would be cut off, when our disabled child or our man’amko with Alzheimer’s repeatedly cried “I’m hot” (not comprehending that nothing could be done about the power outage). Please don’t let me read how sorry you are for the families and the children of those convicted. They weren’t thinking about their children (or our children) when they were stealing from the public, and violating our trust. If they had had their children’s best interest in mind, they would have strived to make them proud by being honest and trustworthy. I don’t hear sympathy being publicized to those families whose unemployed family member made the choice to rob the poker parlor or burglarize a store. Those children and families suffered too. Again it comes down to the choices every individual makes. No, nobody is perfect but “to ourselves we must be true.” And we must be cognizant that our choices—right or wrong—impact those around us.

In closing, kudos again to those witnesses and jurors that made a *choice* to do what is right and just.

Laura Sablan
Kagman, Saipan

Winds of change

Guilty of all charges. Unanimous decision after only six hours of deliberation. The ex-Lt. Governor—despite numerous claims of his innocence—has been tried by a jury of his peers and found guilty of conspiracy, theft, bribery, and misusing public funds for his and some of his family’s personal gain. A loud cry of appreciation to those jurors who had the grit to stand up to the government’s corruption, and to those who came forward to blow the whistle.

That this came out in a federal court is no surprise. The administration wields too large a stick for cases to be brought to trial in a local court. One can only hope that this is the beginning of the end of the corruption we all know exists behind closed doors.

That this will lead to other similar cases will also be no surprise. How many other abuses of government power exists: CUC, MPLA (what happened to that case, by the way?), Aggrekko, misuse of public funds to fight the feds, kickbacks, bribes, sole-sourcing, payoffs...and the list goes on.

This should be a wake-up call to those who are apologists for the current administration. Did the governor not know what was going on during his watch, especially with his handpicked sidekick? Was there complicity at the top? It would seem that the case is made for why the administration is fighting so hard (with public funds!) to keep federalization at bay. One only has to connect the dots.

What punishment should serve justice and make a clear example of zero tolerance for governmental corruption? Perhaps *all* monies taken from public coffers to pay for Rydlyme, as well as any expenses related to the product, should be charged to those convicted. Think of how that reimbursement could benefit the schools, the Retirement Fund, or public health services. All monies *and* perks (such as free gas, phone, utilities, housing, and travel benefits, to name a few) paid to the ex-Lt. Governor during his reign should be returned to the public. This would be a just and worthwhile fine.

Re: Greg Cruz’s queries on CIP funds

May I inform my friend chief *tano* (Goru Bila) that the last time I checked, Gov. Benigno R. Fitia is my boss. I don’t recall ever being appointed by chief tano and even if he generously makes an offer as a de facto titular head, I refuse to deal with dysfunctional people. Eh, “no good rookin’ bradda!”

You claim DPL gave you the runaround in your search for documents. Let’s get this issue straight: You came thinking that you would secure documents for free! When you saw the pile of folders where you will be assessed 50 cents per page, you brought your digital camera and put on a great act of a grand and seasoned researcher. Well, good acting, sir, for we also had the laugh of our lifetime.

I know what’s in the Open Government Act where there are exceptions, chief tano. Furthermore, I also know now that anyone who wishes documents from the DPL must pay in advance for all pages, including time of

Oh, and jail time. The ill-gotten gains made at the expense of the public can easily be paid by the wealthy; however, a 20-year sentence in a federal prison would go a long way in making government officials think twice about abusing their position. However, an offer could be made to the ex-Lt. Governor to cut his sentence by half should he open up to the feds regarding other corrupt government officials. To help clean up the government from the top on down, it would serve to do penance for the ex-Lt. Governor to cooperate with the federal investigators and the Office of the Public Auditor to bring to justice other officials found misusing the public’s trust and taxes. If cooperation is not forthcoming, well, let justice be served with a hefty fine, a long sentence, and about 10,000 hours of community service cleaning the engines at CUC.

When election time arrives in November, the good citizens of the CNMI should vote not for the family name, but rather for those politicians who serve the public openly and honestly, whose deeds speak toward the benefit of the people—*all* the people and not the well-connected few. How many current politicians have a proven record of honesty and transparency? I can think of one person who easily fits in that category but, unfortunately, she is too young to run for governor. And there are a few others who appear more interested in serving the public rather than enriching their family and friends.

Politicians can make many promises (often the empty kind) but deeds speak for themselves. Prudent voters will look at the deeds, not the promises. The guilt at the highest levels of government should serve to open wide the eyes of concerned voters. We can only hope that the winds of change will continue to blow across our lovely islands.

Bill Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

staff dedicated to compile and make photocopies of documents. Clear, sir? Eh, da kine hardworking taxpayers paid for our paper supplies and staff salaries too! You workin’ my man? You payin’ da kine taxes too?






I also know the obvious position you have taken against the lawsuit on federalization. The law aims to get rid of foreign workers, completely, Taotao Tano’s agenda that shields your alleged bigotry. Remember the roadside demonstration you held against the Dekada group? Don’t you think they too deserve to advance their cause as taxpayers? Eh, they pay da dine tax; you don’t! Am I making sense, chief tano? *Mañgge amigo sensian mauleg na Kilisyano yan yinease?* Have a nice day! Si Iku.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
Secretary, Department of Public Lands

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

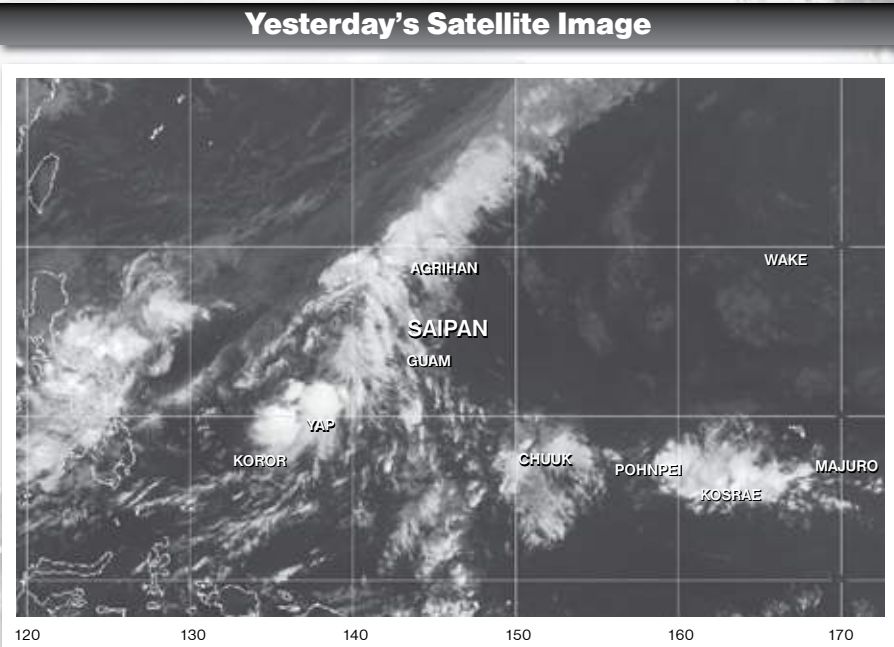
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 15 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. | Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲87° ▼78° | ▲85° ▼78° | ▲85° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° |

| Micronesia | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------|
| Guam and Rota | Showers | ▲85 ▼77 |
| Palau | Partly Sunny | ▲86 ▼77 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲86 ▼78 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲88 ▼78 |
| Pohnpei | Rain | ▲81 ▼77 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲88 ▼79 |
| Majuro | Sunny | ▲85 ▼76 |

| Around The Globe | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------|
| Auckland | Partly Sunny | ▲63 ▼56 |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | ▲81 ▼57 |
| Hong Kong | Showers | ▲79 ▼72 |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | ▲78 ▼69 |
| London | Rain | ▲59 ▼46 |
| Los Angeles | Mostly Cloudy | ▲72 ▼54 |
| Manila | Cloudy | ▲82 ▼77 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Cloudy | ▲62 ▼51 |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | ▲84 ▼74 |
| New York | Cloudy | ▲61 ▼52 |
| Osaka | Sunny | ▲69 ▼52 |
| Paris | Showers | ▲58 ▼44 |
| Pusan | Sunny | ▲72 ▼49 |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | ▲67 ▼48 |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | ▲59 ▼39 |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | ▲65 ▼52 |
| Seoul | Partly Sunny | ▲68 ▼44 |
| Tokyo | Sunny | ▲69 ▼54 |
| Washington, DC | Showers | ▲62 ▼59 |

| Tides | | |
|----------------|------------|----------|
| Saipan Harbor | | |
| 12:30 AM Today | High Tide: | 1.9 Feet |
| 5:44 AM Today | Low Tide: | 1.4 Feet |
| 10:11 AM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 6:01 PM Today | Low Tide: | 0.4 Feet |



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward from 25N150E to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 90 miles on either side of the shear line east of 141E with patchy showers up to 100 miles to the north of the shear line west of 140E. A surface trough stretches northward from EQ142E to a circulation centered at 11N138E then continues northward to end at the shear line at 20N142E. Numerous showers and thunderstorms are located near the circulation center north of Yap within 80 miles of a line from 8N135E to 11N139E. Scattered showers are also located east of the trough axis near the Marianas between 20N and 10N from 140E to 146N as well as within 300 miles east of a line from 10N140E to EQ145E. A weak surface trough west of Chuuk extends northward from 3N149E to 9N147E. Convergence near and east of the trough axis is generating scattered showers over Chuuk or within an area bounded by a line from 9N149E to 8N157E to 2N151E back to 9N149E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers near Pohnpei and Kosrae within 100 miles of a line extending eastward from Pohnpei to 5N169E. Scattered showers exist southeast of Majuro within 40 miles of a line from 6N171E to 6N175E.

| Sunrise/Sunset | | | Moonrise/Moonset | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|------------------|----------|----------|
| Today | 5:54 AM | 6:34 PM | Today | 10:25 AM | 11:49 PM |
| Friday | 5:54 AM | 6:35 PM | Friday | 11:28 AM | |
| Saturday | 5:53 AM | 6:35 PM | Saturday | 12:28 PM | 12:39 AM |
| Sunday | 5:53 AM | 6:35 PM | Sunday | 1:25 PM | 1:25 AM |
| Monday | 5:52 AM | 6:35 PM | Monday | 2:19 PM | 2:06 AM |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009 | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| DEPARTURES | | | ARRIVALS | | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | Rota-Saipan | | |
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 12:25pm 1,7 | CO 9598 | 3:25am | 4:00am 5,6 |
| Saipan-Guam | | | Guam-Saipan | | |
| CO9317 | 5:00am | 5:50am Daily | CO 9316 | 2:30am | 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 |
| CO9313 | 8:30am | 9:20am Daily | CO9598 | 2:30am | 4:00am 5,6 via Rota |
| CO9597 | 11:50am | 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota | CO9596 | 7:00am | 7:50am Daily |
| CO9601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 | CO9600 | 10:20am | 11:10am Daily |
| CO9603 | 3:30pm | 4:20pm Daily | CO9602 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm Daily |
| CO9605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm Daily | CO9604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm Daily |
| CO9599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm Daily | CO9606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm Daily |
| Saipan-Narita | | | Narita-Saipan | | |
| NW 099 | 5:00am | 7:35am Daily | NW 076 | 10:15am | 2:40pm Daily |
| NW 078 | 8:20am | 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 | NW 077 | 6:25pm | 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 |
| NW 075 | 4:55pm | 7:30pm Daily | NW 100 | 8:45pm | 1:10am+1 Daily |
| Guam-Narita | | | Narita-Guam | | |
| NW 73 | 4:10pm | 7:00pm Daily | NW 74 | 9:45am | 2:20pm Daily |
| NW 81 | 3:55pm | 6:55pm Daily | NW 82 | 10:30am | 3:10pm Daily |
| Saipan-Osaka | | | Osaka-Saipan | | |
| OZ 119 | 4:00am | 6:40am 1,4,6 | OZ 120 | 9:50pm | 2:20am+1 3,5,7 |
| Guam-Osaka | | | Osaka-Guam | | |
| NW 79 | 4:45pm | 7:35pm Daily | NW 80 | 10:30am | 3:00pm Daily |
| Saipan-Nagoya | | | Nagoya-Saipan | | |
| NW 078 | 8:20am | 11:05am Daily | NW 077 | 9:00pm | 1:20am+1 Daily |
| Guam-Nagoya | | | Nagoya-Guam | | |
| NW 23 | 4:30pm | 7:20pm Daily | NW 24 | 10:00am | 2:30pm Daily |
| Saipan-Incheon | | | Incheon-Saipan | | |
| OZ 604 | 2:10am | 6:00am 1 | OZ 605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm Daily |
| OZ 604 | 2:40am | 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 | OZ 603 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 7 |
| OZ 119 | 4:00am | 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka | OZ 120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka |
| OZ 606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm Daily | OZ 603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 |
| Saipan-Busan | | | Busan-Saipan | | |
| OZ 608 | 3:20am | 6:50am 1,4,5,7 | OZ 607 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7 |
| Saipan-Shanghai | | | Shanghai-Saipan | | |
| FM 844 | 2:50am | 5:40am 2,6 | FM 843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 1,5 |
| Rota-Guam | | | Guam-Rota | | |
| CO 9597 | 12:50pm | 1:20pm 1,7 | CO 9598 | 2:30am | 3:00am 5,6 |
| Guam-Palau | | | Palau-Guam | | |
| CO 953 | 7:40pm | 8:40pm 1,7 | CO 954 | 2:30am | 5:25am 1,2 |
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 6:50pm 3,5 | CO 892 | 2:35am | 5:30am 4,6 |
| Palau-Manila | | | Manila-Palau | | |
| CO 893 | 7:35pm | 9:10pm 3,5 | CO 892 | 10:10pm | 1:50am+1 3,5 |
| Guam-Manila | | | Manila-Guam | | |
| CO 893 | 5:50pm | 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror | CO 892 | 10:10pm | 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror |
| CO 933 | 8:00pm | 9:40pm Daily | CO 934 | 11:10pm | 4:40am+1 Daily |
| PR 111 | 6:00am | 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7 | PR 110 | 10:10pm | 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7 |
| Nagoya-Manila | | | Manila-Nagoya | | |
| NW 71 | 8:40pm | 11:55pm Daily | NW 72 | 6:30am | 11:05am Daily |
| Incheon-Hongkong | | | Hongkong-Incheon | | |
| OZ 721 | 9:20am | 12:00pm Daily | OZ 724 | 12:30am | 4:50am Daily |
| OZ 723 | 7:45pm | 10:35pm Daily | OZ 7183 | 12:45am | 5:05am 1,4,6 |
| OZ 7173 | 8:00pm | 10:50pm 5,7 | OZ 722 | 1:30pm | 5:45pm Daily |
| Narita-Manila | | | Manila-Narita | | |
| NW 1 | 7:00pm | 10:55pm Daily | NW 2 | 7:45am | 12:40pm Daily |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|--|---------|---------|-----------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily | FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily | FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily | FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily | Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam** | | | |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily | FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily | FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily | FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily | FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily | FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily | FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily | FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily | FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily | | | | |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily | | | | |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Economy's free-fall probably eased in 1st quarter

WASHINGTON (AP)—The recession's grip on the country may be letting up a bit.

The government is set to release a report Wednesday expected to show the economy shrank at a pace of 5 percent in the first three months of this year. If Wall Street analysts' forecasts are correct, the figure—while still extremely weak—would be

viewed as a hopeful sign that the worst of the recession—in terms of lost economic activity—may be past.

"The recession is easing up," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wachovia. "We're probably bottoming out here in the first half of this year."

The economy in the final three months of last year logged its worst downhill slide

in a quarter-century, contracting at a 6.3 percent annual rate as nervous American consumers ratcheted back spending in the face of rising unemployment, falling home values and shrinking nest eggs.

The less steep decline in economic activity anticipated by analysts in the January-March quarter is based on the expectation that shoppers at home and abroad didn't pull back quite as much at the start of this year.

Consumer spending, which accounts for roughly 70 percent of national economic activity, is still expected to be negative. But it will probably log a small dip versus the big 4.3 percent annualized decline seen in the final three months of 2008. The same rationale would hold for sales of U.S. exports, which have been crimped as economic troubles in other countries force foreign buyers to be cautious.

Many analysts predict the economy will shrink even less in the current April-June period—at a pace of 1 to 2.5 percent. Tax cuts and increased government spending on big public works projects included in President Barack Obama's \$787 billion should help bolster economic activity. Analysts hope the economy will actually start to grow again in the final quarter of this year.



Shoppers walk on Fifth Ave. Tuesday, April 28, 2009 in New York. Hopeful signs that the worst may be over for the economy boosted Americans' moods in April, sending a closely watched barometer of sentiment to the highest level since November.

Swine flu fear catching fast in a weak world economy

NEW YORK (AP)—The swine flu outbreak is unleashing a side effect the global economy is in no condition to handle: fear.

Travelers are canceling or delaying trips to Mexico, Cuba banned all flights to its neighbor and Argentina announced Tuesday a five-day ban on flights arriving from Mexico. China, Russia and South Korea have banned imports of some North American pork, despite assurances that the flu is not spread through meat. Investors just starting to regain their nerve have again caught the jitters.

The threat of a pandemic comes just as the world economy is showing the barest glimmerings of what analysts say might be the light at the end of what remains a long, dark tunnel.

And now this.

"This is just another negative shock when the economy can least afford another negative shock," said Jay Bryson, global economist at Wachovia Corp.

So far, fear of the flu is at least as responsible for the economic disruption as the disease itself.

The number of confirmed cases in the United States climbed to 66, and federal officials warned that deaths were likely. In New York, the city's health commissioner said "many hundreds" of schoolchildren were ill at a school where some students had confirmed cases.

President Barack Obama asked Congress for \$1.5 billion in emergency funds to fight the disease.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chrysler agreements make liquidation less likely

WASHINGTON (AP)—With just two days left before a government-imposed restructuring deadline, Chrysler LLC took a step away from the brink of bankruptcy Tuesday when its biggest lenders reached a deal with the Treasury Department to slash the teetering automaker's debt. Yet Chrysler's fate remains far from assured. If the company's smaller creditors don't get on board, a bankruptcy filing remains a possibility. But now that Chrysler has a tentative agreement with the United Auto Workers and is closing in on a pact with Italian automaker Fiat Group SpA, Chrysler has cleared nearly all the hurdles ahead of its Thursday deadline. That brings the automaker closer to securing another \$6 billion in government aid, keeping it alive and preserving its remaining 54,000 jobs. "I think this has moved the needle more toward a turnaround," said Mike Boudreau, a director at O'Keefe & Associates, a Bloomfield Hills, Mich.-based turnaround firm. "They still could file for bankruptcy, but they also could go into it with some hope of reorganizing too."

GM to force more than 1,000 dealers to close

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. told its dealers Tuesday that it will force 1,000 to 1,200 underperforming locations to close their doors as the automaker tries to thin dealer ranks to make the remaining outlets more profitable. GM told the dealers about the plan in a video conference, according to a dealer who spoke on condition of anonymity because the video conference was private. It is part of the company's plan announced Monday to cut more than 2,600 dealers by 2010. The company expects to lose 500 Hummer and Saturn dealers when those brands close or are sold, and it expects 400 dealers to close voluntarily. Another 500 would be consolidated into other dealerships, according to the dealer. GM said Monday that it also would eliminate its Pontiac brand, but there are only 27 dealers that sell just Pontiacs, according to the National Automobile Dealers Association. Most Pontiac dealers also sell Buick and GMC vehicles at the same location.

FHB posts \$52.9M net income in 1Q



HONOLULU, Hawaii—First Hawaiian Bank yesterday announced 2009 first quarter net income of \$52.9 million (excluding a one-time gain), an increase of 3.1 percent over the first quarter of 2008.

In addition, the bank recorded a one-time, leveraged lease portfolio tax gain of \$21.6 million which resulted in overall first quarter net income of \$74.5 million, a 33-percent increase over the first quarter 2008. The announcement was made today by Don Horner, First Hawaiian Bank's chairman and chief executive officer.

"The bank experienced a respectable quarter, especially given the challenging economic environment. Our fundamentals remain strong, including asset quality, earnings, capital position and margins. The bank continues to have the strength and capability to offer customers both financial security and solutions during these uncertain times," Horner said.

Compared to the previous year, for the first three months ending March 31, 2009, First Hawaiian achieved the following:

Total Assets: grew to \$13.4 billion, an increase of 3.2 percent.

Deposits: were \$9.5 billion, up 5.8 percent.

Loans and Leases: were \$8 billion, a 17-percent increase

Non-Performing Assets: asset quality remained one of the strongest in the U.S. at 0.2 percent.

In May the bank plans to open a newly constructed, state-of-the-art, larger branch in the heart of Kailua Town to replace an older facility.

First Hawaiian Bank continues to be one of the safest banks in the nation. It ranks in the Top 5 percent of all U.S. banks in terms of credit quality, earnings and capital. Its credit rating is one of the strongest in the country, while Bankrate.com gives First Hawaiian its highest five star rating. First Hawaiian's parent company, BNP Paribas, is ranked by *Forbes* magazine as the fifth-largest bank in the world. With a AA credit rating from Standard & Poor's, it is ranked 6th in the world in terms of credit strength.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with \$13.4 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. The bank is owned by BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. (PR)

APAFS Palau Country Conference starts tomorrow

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies continues its 2009 series of Country Conferences for fiduciaries of investment funds throughout the region with the holding of the 2nd Annual Palau Country Conference on Friday, May 1, at the Ngarayameyong Cultural Center.

An APAFS Country Conference is a one-day affair that provides educational sessions on topics specifically requested by members in their respective jurisdictions. The topics and session leaders for this year's Palau Country Conference include:

- The Prudent Process: Managing Fiduciary Responsibility—Philip Mendiola-Long, AIF, president, Sherman Consulting;

- The Effect of the Economic Crisis on Retirement Plans in the Region—David J. John, President, ASC Trust Company;

- Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies-Update on our Mission—Gerard A. Cruz, Chairman, APAFS;

- Financial Crisis on a Global Scale—Jason B. Miyashita, AIF, Citi Smith Barney/ Consulting Group; and

- Domestic and International Capital Markets Outlook—James D. Staub, Senior Vice President, Atalanta Sosnoff Capital Corporation.

For more information regarding the conference or APAFS, contact Daniel Roland, APAFS Executive Director, at executivedirector@apafs.org.

The Palau conference will be the fifth of the series of regional conferences for 2009, that will culminate in the 9th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference to be held in Manila, Philippines on Oct. 8 and 9 at the Renaissance Hotel, Makati. (PR)

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
3,663.600
Down 8.100
(-0.22%)

HONG KONG
14,811.81
Up 256.70
(+1.76%)

TOKYO
8,493.77
Down 232.57
(-2.67%)

MANILA
2,061.05
Down 2.45
(-0.12%)

SEOUL
1,331.52
Up 31.28
(+2.41%)

JAKARTA
1,632.723
Up 36.808
(+2.31%)

K. LUMPUR
965.70
Down 14.42
(-1.47%)

SINGAPORE
1,828.86
Up 20.45
(+1.13%)

BANGKOK
477.09
Up 4.37
(+0.92%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
8,016.95
-8.05

NASDAQ
1,673.81
-5.60

S&P
855.16
-2.35

MONEY MARKET

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Australian Dollar | 1.4028 |
| British Pound | 0.6799 |
| Canadian Dollar | 1.2131 |
| Chinese Renmbi | 6.8252 |
| Euro | 0.7576 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 7.7503 |
| Indian Rupee | 50.244 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 10850 |
| Japanese Yen | 96.82 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 3.5965 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 1.7649 |
| Philippine Peso | 48.662 |
| Singapore Dollar | 1.4938 |
| South Korean Won | 1340.2 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.1409 |
| Taiwan Dollar | 33.674 |
| Thailand Baht | 35.42 |

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Officials say US deaths expected from swine flu

NEW YORK (AP)—The global swine flu outbreak worsened Tuesday as authorities said hundreds of students at a New York school have fallen ill and federal officials said they expected to see U.S. deaths from the virus. Cuba suspended flights to and from Mexico, becoming the first country to impose a travel ban to the epicenter of the epidemic.

The mayor of the capital cracked down further on public life, closing gyms and swimming pools and ordering restaurants to limit service to takeout.

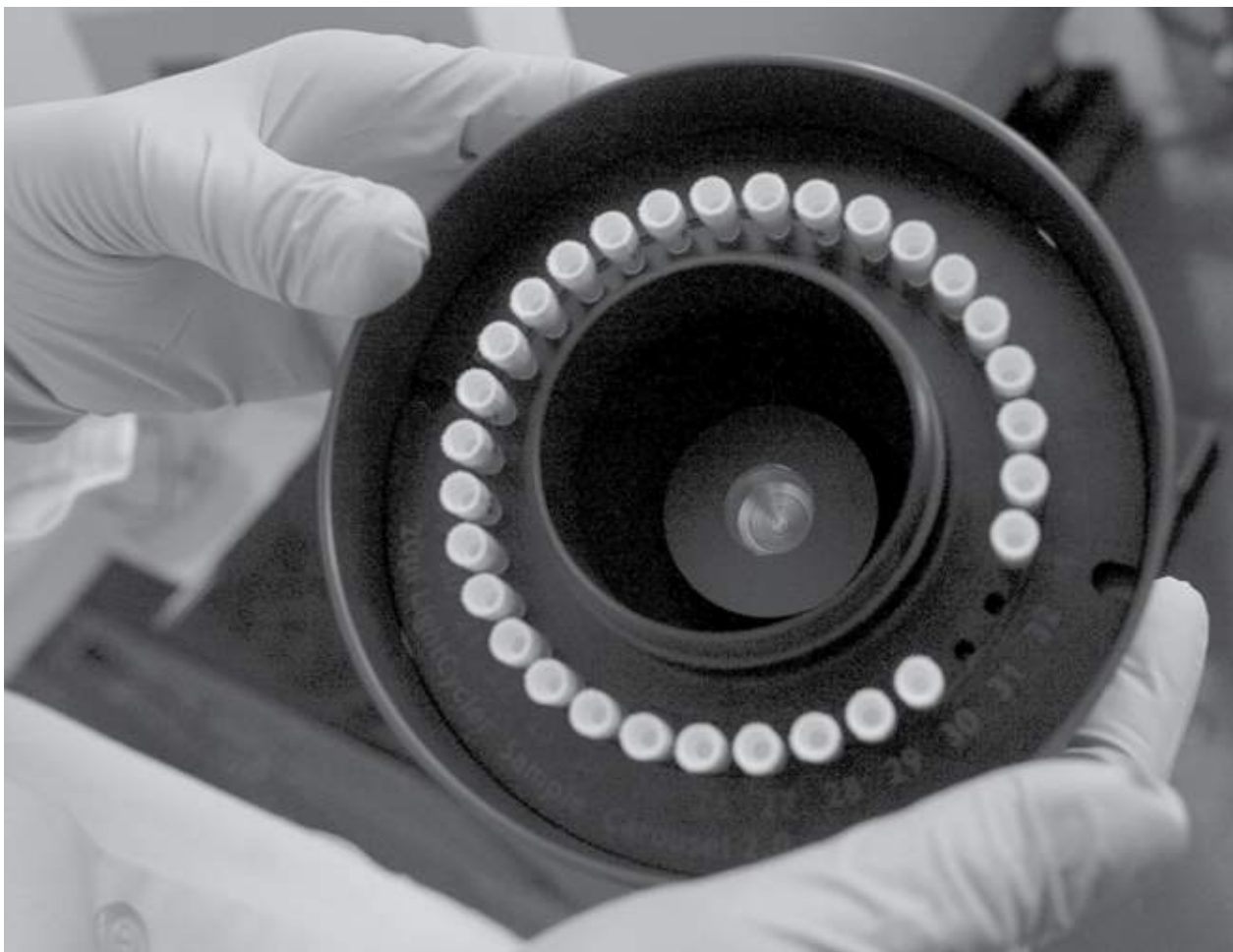
Confirmed cases were reported for the first time as far away as New Zealand and Israel, joining the United States, Canada, Britain and Spain.

Swine flu is believed to have killed more than 150 people in Mexico, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the U.S. has 68 confirmed cases in five states, with 45 in New York, one in Ohio, one in Indiana, two in Kansas, six in Texas and 13 in California.

"I fully expect we will see deaths from this infection," said Richard Besser, acting director of the CDC.

That was echoed by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

"It is very likely that we will see more serious presentations of illness and some deaths as we go through this flu cycle," she said.



Public Health Microbiologist Nancy Barnard checks the positioning vials in a tray of flu samples before inserting them into a light cyclor while performing a molecular test to determine the type of flu virus at the Marin County Public Health Lab in San Rafael, Calif., on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

President Barack Obama asked Congress for \$1.5 billion in emergency funds to fight the illness.

In New York, there were growing signs that the virus was moving beyond St. Francis Preparatory school, where sick students started lining up last week at the nurse's office. The outbreak came just days after a group of students returned from spring break in Cancun.

At the 2,700-student school, the largest Roman Catholic high school in the nation, "many hundreds of students were ill with symptoms that are most likely swine flu," said Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden. The cases haven't been confirmed.

Twelve teachers reported flu-like symptoms as well, said the principal, Brother Leonard Conway.

A nearby public school for special education students was shut down after more than 80 students called in sick. Frieden said that some of the students have siblings at St. Francis.

"It is here and it is spreading," Frieden said.

Some of the New York students who tested positive for swine flu after a trip to Mexico passed it on to others who had not traveled—a significant fact because it suggests the strain suspected in dozens of deaths in Mexico can also spread through communities in other countries.

Democrats urge torture probe by special counsel

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional Democrats turned up the pressure on the Obama administration Tuesday to start a criminal investigation by a special counsel into harsh interrogations of terrorism suspects.

It would be a conflict of interest for President Barack Obama's Justice Department to investigate lawyers from the Bush administration, even though they no longer work for the government, Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee said.

In a letter to Attorney General Eric

Holder, the Democrats wrote, "It is impossible to determine at this stage, and before conclusion of the necessary investigation, whether additional conflicts of interest might exist or arise."

The letter said a special counsel's investigation would insulate the department from accusations that the investigation was politically inspired.

Most of the 16 signers were Democratic liberals. Seven committee Democrats did not sign the letter, nor did any of the 16 Republicans.

Justice Department spokesman Dean

Boyd said the letter will be reviewed, but he pointed out the department's Office of Professional Responsibility is investigating whether the memos are consistent with professional standards required of department lawyers.

"As with any issue, we will follow the facts where they lead," Boyd said. "As the attorney general has said, it would be unfair to prosecute dedicated men and women working to protect America for conduct that was sanctioned in advance by the Justice Department."

States Senate decided by the Pennsylvania Republican primary electorate."

Not long after Specter met privately with Republican senators to explain his decision, the party's leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell, said the switch posed a "threat to the country." The issue, he said, "really relates to ... whether or not in the United States of America our people want the majority party to have whatever it wants, without restraint, without a check or balance."

Specter shift puts Dems near filibuster-proof mark

WASHINGTON (AP)—Veteran Republican Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania switched parties Tuesday with a suddenness that seemed to stun the Senate, a moderate's defection that pushed Democrats to within a vote of the 60 needed to overcome filibusters and enact President Barack Obama's top legislative priorities.

Specter, 79 and seeking a sixth term in 2010, conceded bluntly that his chances of winning a Pennsylvania

Republican primary next year were bleak in a party grown increasingly conservative. But he cast his decision as one of principle, rather than fueled by political ambition as spurned GOP leaders alleged.

"I have found myself increasingly at odds with the Republican philosophy and more in line with the philosophy of the Democratic Party," he said at a news conference. He added, "I am not prepared to have my 29 year record in the United

At least 5 killed, dozens hurt in Calif. bus crash

SOLEDAAD, Calif. (AP)—A bus carrying French tourists overturned on a central California highway overpass Tuesday afternoon, killing at least five and injuring dozens of others, authorities said.

The crash, which occurred shortly before 3:30 p.m., ejected four passengers from the vehicle, sending one over the side of the road and onto railroad tracks 60 to 70 feet below, said California Highway Patrol spokesman Brian Wiest. Luggage and bodies were strewn on U.S. 101 in Soledad, about 100 miles southeast of San Francisco.

"It's a tragedy," Wiest said. "It's certainly one of worst I've seen in a long time."

Maia Carroll, a spokeswoman for the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services, said there were at least five confirmed deaths—three who died at the scene, including the passenger who fell to the railroad tracks, and two who later died at hospitals.

A total of 36 people had been on

board, including 34 French tourists, one Canadian tour guide and an American driver, Wiest said. Nine hospitals were treating patients, including seven who were airlifted to Fresno and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Four of those injured were under the age of 18, including a 13-year-old girl who was airlifted to Fresno, Wiest said. The driver was among those who survived the crash, according to the CHP.

Jacques de Noray, a spokesman for the French consulate in San Francisco, said authorities had notified his office that the crash involved French citizens, but said he had no further details.

The tour, which had started in San Francisco, was en route to Southern California, where the tourists were due to fly out of Los Angeles back to France, Wiest said. The group made stops Tuesday in Monterey and Carmel before the crash, authorities said.

The maroon bus, bearing the name Orion Pacific, lay on its side after crashing into the guard rail on the two-lane southbound overpass.



ACROSS THE NATION

Officials blame mineral overdose in horse deaths

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Florida's top veterinarian on Tuesday blamed the deaths of 21 elite polo horses on an overdose of a common mineral that helps muscles recover from fatigue. Florida's state veterinarian, Dr. Thomas J. Holt, said toxicology tests on the dead horses showed significantly increased selenium levels. The horses from the Venezuelan-owned Lechuza Caracas team began collapsing April 19 as they were unloaded from trailers at the International Polo Club Palm Beach

in Wellington before a championship match. Some died at the scene, others hours later. "Signs exhibited by the horses and their rapid deaths were consistent with toxic doses of selenium," Holt said. The team was preparing to play in the sport's U.S. Open and was seen as a top contender.

Deputy US marshal guilty of leaking secrets to mob

CHICAGO (AP)—A deputy U.S. marshal was convicted Tuesday of violating the secrecy of the federal government's witness protection program by leaking

information about a key witness cooperating in a Chicago mob investigation. Deputy marshal John T. Ambrose, 42, stared straight ahead as jurors returned the verdict after almost three days of deliberation. He was acquitted of two charges of lying to federal agents, and sentencing was set for Sept. 9. Defense attorney Francis C. Lipuma promised an appeal. "This is far from over, we're going to keep up the good fight," the attorney said. Ambrose, a veteran fugitive hunter with a sterling record until now, is the only person in the 39-year history of the ultrasecret Witness Secu-

rity Program to deliberately violate its security safeguards.

3 brothers get life sentences in Fort Dix case

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—Three immigrant brothers involved in a plot to kill military personnel, possibly on Fort Dix, were sentenced Tuesday to spend the rest of their lives in prison. The government had said the men were familiar with the Army post because their father's pizza shop delivered there, and it presented the case as one of the most star-

ting examples of homegrown terrorism. Dritan, Eljvir and Shain Duka professed their innocence in courtroom speeches before U.S. District Judge Robert Kugler handed down their sentences. Two other men were to be sentenced Wednesday. All five were convicted by a jury in December of conspiracy to kill military personnel but were acquitted on attempted-murder charges. Four of them also were convicted on weapons offenses. Two of the Duka brothers, Dritan and Shain, were given sentences of life plus 30 years because of one of the weapons counts against them.

Asia

Taiwan president: China okays island WHO role

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president announced Wednesday that China will allow the island's participation in a key World Health Organization body, a major victory in Taipei's campaign for international recognition.

President Ma Ying-jeou's announcement that Taiwan would join this year's decision-making World Health Assembly in Geneva as an observer comes amid warming ties between the two sides, which split amid civil war in 1949. The mainland still claims the island as part of its territory.

Beijing normally objects to Taipei's participation in any international organizations because that symbolizes national sovereignty, and has successfully blocked Taipei's participation in WHO since the early 1970s.

After Ma's announcement, China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted the Chinese authorities saying that Taiwan had been invited to attend the WHA as an observer this year.

In Beijing, Taiwan Affairs Office Spokesman Li Weiwei told reporters that China is "optimistic" about Taiwan's participation in this year's assembly, which begins on May 18 in Geneva.

Taiwanese Health Minister Yeh Ch-

ing-chuan showed Taiwanese TV stations a formal invitation to the meeting from WHO Director General Margaret Chan, suggesting that the island's participation was a done deal.

Speaking to staffers at the Presidential Office, Ma said Beijing had lifted its long-time objections to Taipei's participation.

"The mainland authorities have made a friendly gesture," Ma said.

Ma spokesman Wang Yu-chi said the island would participate in the assembly as an observer under the name Chinese Taipei, the same title it uses in the Olympics.

Relations between China and Taiwan have improved significantly since Ma's election last March. Predecessor Chen Shui-bian was reviled by Beijing, because of his support for formal Taiwanese independence.

Taiwan—including under Chen—pushed hard for WHO participation, because of the access to key medical information it provides. It used the SARS outbreak in 2002-2003 as an example, saying that Beijing's refusal to let it participate undermined its ability to deal effectively with the deadly epidemic.



ZOO PROTEST

Photographers and onlookers take pictures of the scantily-clad members of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, PETA, who hold slogans in front of Manila Zoo, Philippines on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. The animal rights group is calling for a boycott of the zoo for allegedly making animals live like prisoners behind bars.

Philippines asks for ship escorts to fight pirates

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines, the largest single provider of the world's seafarers, urged Pacific Rim transportation ministers Tuesday to aid its ships and sailors through pirate-infested Somali waters amid a slump in global trade.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza appealed to officials from the 21-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation addressing the menace of piracy to the world's merchant ships to provide armed escorts to Philippine ships, said Transportation Undersecretary Maria Elena Bautista.

The Philippines supplies about 30 percent of the world's 1.2 million merchant sailors, and the Foreign Affairs Department says 81 Filipino seafarers are among Somali pirates' prisoners.

A strengthened international naval force has been patrolling the Gulf of Aden since the beginning of 2009 following a surge in hijackings in the area last year.

The Philippines is in "Category E," which Bautista said is the lowest priority in receiving naval escorts near Somali waters.

"The appeal of Secretary Mendoza

is for the Philippines to be given additional assistance because we have a lot of Filipinos serving in their vessels," she added.

She thanked China, Germany and the U.S. for aiding the Philippine tanker M/T *Stolt Strength* and its 23 Filipino crewmen after Somali pirates released them on April 21. A Chinese frigate escorting the tanker out of Somali waters deployed helicopters Monday to drive away pirates again lurking close to the ship as it sailed toward Oman's territorial waters, Bautista said.

Heavy security in Kabul for canceled celebration

KABUL (AP)—Thousands of police patrolled Afghanistan's capital Tuesday, a national holiday meant to celebrate the victory of guerrilla fighters over the Soviet-backed Communist regime that controlled the country until 1992.

Afghan officials canceled all public events this year, following a high-profile Taliban attack on last year's parade, which was attended by President

Hamid Karzai.

That attack killed three people, including a lawmaker only 30 yards (meters) from Karzai. Hundreds of people, including army and police, fled in chaos as shots rang out. The president was hustled away, surrounded by bodyguards.

Officials flirted with the idea of holding a public celebration this year, but ultimately canceled any public obser-

vance, while Karzai said money intended for the parade would instead be given to victims of a recent earthquake and flood. Instead, police in body armor and wielding heavy weapons have been stationed around the capital to deter a repeat attack. "We have our tightest security up. Police are carrying out extensive searches at the four gates of Kabul," said Mustafa Wardak, a spokesman for Kabul's police chief.

10 killed by suspected insurgents in Thailand

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—Suspected Muslim rebels killed 10 civilians in a flurry of attacks in insurgency-plagued southern Thailand, the army said Tuesday on the fifth anniversary of a bloody assault by security forces against militants at a mosque.

In the deadliest incident, at least six gunmen in a pickup truck stormed into a house in Yala province late Monday, opening fire on a Muslim family of five, army spokesman Col. Parinya Chaidilok said. Four people were killed.

Parinya said two Muslim rubber plantation workers were later found dead in the compound of a nearby mosque. Thai security officials blamed Muslim insurgents bent on stirring up communal tension between Buddhists and Muslims.

The incidents came ahead of the fifth anniversary of the April 28, 2004, assault on the Krue Se mosque by Thai security forces, in which 32 insurgents were killed.

Other clashes the same day be-

tween Muslims and government forces resulted in the deaths of a total of 107 people at the hands of security forces, turning the mosque attack into a symbol of the heavy-handed tactics of Thai authorities.

The International Commission of Jurists and four Thai human rights groups issued a joint statement Tuesday asking Thailand's Attorney General for a public explanation of his decision not to prosecute certain officers involved in the assault on the mosque.

The groups said they were "deeply concerned that the Attorney General's decision will undermine the prospects for peaceful resolution by furthering the perception that the Government is unable or unwilling to apply the rule of law in cases of alleged violation by security forces."

The Krue Se killings fueled a nascent insurgency that has claimed more than 3,400 lives in Thailand's three southernmost provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat and some parts of neighboring Songkhla.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan troops battling Taliban take key town

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's army says troops sent to counter a Taliban push toward the capital of Islamabad have taken a key town. A military statement said troops flown in on helicopters secured the main town in Buner district on Wednesday morning. An army official said warplanes had first pounded Taliban positions around the town of Dagger. No information was available on casualties.

French, British ministers in Sri Lanka for talks

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The British and French foreign ministers

were holding talks in Sri Lanka on Wednesday aimed at persuading the government to accept a temporary cease-fire in its civil war to allow tens of thousands of civilians to escape the conflict zone. Diplomatic pressure has grown in recent days for a humanitarian truce in the government's offensive, which has cornered the once powerful Tamil Tigers into a tiny strip of northeastern coast, but also killed thousands of civilians. The rebels appealed Sunday for a cease-fire, but the government rejected it as a ploy by the beleaguered guerrillas to buy time to regroup. British Foreign Secretary David Miliband and French counterpart Bernard Kouchner were to meet with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha

Bogollagama to press the government to reconsider and to offer to mediate a peaceful end to the bloody, quarter-century civil war.

Myanmar opposition to decide later about 2010 poll

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Members of detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party said Tuesday they will wait to see whether laws governing next year's elections conform with democratic standards before deciding if they will contest the polls.

Aung Shwe, chairman of the National League for Democracy, said the party has already called for Myanmar's

restrictive constitution to be reviewed. He said it has many flaws and its main objective is perpetuating military rule. The party believes the referendum that approved the constitution had serious shortcomings, he said. Aung Shwe said the party will wait until the election and party registration laws come out before it decides whether to participate in the 2010 election.

SKorean experts claim to have cloned glowing dogs

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean scientists say they have engineered four beagles that glow red using cloning techniques that could help

develop cures for human diseases. The four dogs, all named "Ruppy"—a combination of the words "ruby" and "puppy"—look like typical beagles by daylight. But they glow red under ultraviolet light, and the dogs' nails and abdomens, which have thin skins, look red even to the naked eye. Seoul National University professor Lee Byeong-chun, head of the research team, called them the world's first transgenic dogs carrying fluorescent genes, an achievement that goes beyond just the glowing novelty. "What's significant in this work is not the dogs expressing red colors but that we planted genes into them," Lee told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

World

Mexico death toll stabilizes as epidemic spreads

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The toll from the swine flu epidemic appears to be stabilizing in Mexico, the health secretary said late Tuesday, with only seven more suspected deaths. But health officials said they “fully expect” to see U.S. deaths as the virus keeps spreading around the world.

The new virus is suspected in 159 deaths and 2,498 illnesses across Mexico, said Health Secretary Jose Cordova, who called the death toll “more or less stable” even as hospitals are swamped with people who think they have swine flu. And he said only 1,311 suspected swine flu patients remain hospitalized, a sign that treatment works for people who get medical care quickly.

The positive news came as the swine flu appeared to spread from hundreds of students at a New York school who fell ill after a small group’s spring break trip to Mexico, and confirmed cases were reported in New Zealand and Israel, joining the United States, Canada, Britain and Spain.

The United States stepped up surveillance at its borders and warned Americans to avoid non-essential travel to Mexico. Canada, Israel and France issued similar travel advisories.

Cuba became the first country to impose an outright ban on travel to the epicenter of the epidemic. Argentina soon followed with its own ban, and ordered 60,000 visitors who arrived from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. in the past 20 days to contact the Health Ministry.

Meanwhile, Mexico was eliminating reasons for tourists to visit. On Tuesday, the pyramids and all other archaeological sites were put off limits nationwide and restaurants in the capital were closed for all but take-out food in an aggressive bid to stop gatherings where the virus can spread.



A city worker fills a bucket with water in a low income neighborhood in Mexico City, Tuesday, April 28, 2009. Mexico City’s water supply, which has been at a historic low in its reserves, has suspended its planned water cuts in order to cope with the ongoing swine flu outbreak which has already extended its reach overseas and into the United States.

US audit: Costs soar for Iraqi military training

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq is falling far behind schedule in creating a system to maintain its own military equipment, costing American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars to fill in the gaps, according to a new U.S. audit.

The report highlights some of the fundamental worries among American commanders as they look past the U.S. military exit from Iraq at the end of 2011: Will Iraqi security forces be able to handle tasks as basic as keeping their vehicles on the road?

The U.S. has spent billions of dollars

to develop Iraq’s security forces with an emphasis in recent years on developing Iraq’s maintenance and supply capabilities—seen as essential for the country to maintain a self-sufficient force after the lifeline from Washington is trimmed back.

It’s part of the Pentagon’s wide-ranging plans to train and upgrade Iraq security forces from street-level police units and rebuild Iraqi naval and air power.

But the audit—by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction—found a pattern of negligence

and shortcomings by the Iraqi military in planning for the basic needs of the military: repairing and maintaining equipment and supplying troops.

The problems include not allocating enough funds for logistics operations and failing to provide enough soldiers for training, the audit said.

In one case, Iraqi soldiers abandoned a 90-day maintenance training class in March 2008 because they hadn’t been paid in weeks by their units. The report said the Iraqi army has not yet assigned other soldiers to take a class.

Mexicans put their faith in masks—but do they work?

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The cloth patches in green, blue and white are everywhere, clamped tight over the mouth and nose of teachers, toddlers, policemen and drunks. Even the statue at the church of St. Jude, patron of lost causes, has been fitted with a light-blue surgical mask to ward off swine flu.

But do they work?

While Mexico has handed out millions of facial coverings, U.S. officials have held off, saying there is little evidence of their effectiveness. Some doctors warn they might even be harmful, causing people to take risks—like venturing into crowds or neglecting to wash hands—in the mistaken belief that the mask protects them.

The ubiquitous masks give an eerie, unsettling air to this overcrowded city, as if 20 million people have entered a scene from some kind of apocalyptic future. They’re also a reminder of an equally frightening episode: Technicolor versions of those dotting scratchy black and white photographs from the 1918 Spanish Influenza epidemic, which claimed up to 50 million lives worldwide.

Soldiers hand them out at subway stations. Pharmacies and hardware stores can’t keep them in stock. Newspapers have begun running front page instructions on making do-it-yourself mouth coverings. President

Felipe Calderon proudly boasted over the weekend that more than 6 million masks have been distributed.

“They must be worn when one is out in public or in a closed, crowded space,” Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova insisted Monday, while acknowledging in the same breath that the government-distributed masks are too porous to eliminate all risk.

“They still offer enough protection as a public health measure,” he offered.

U.S. health officials give very different guidance. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there is not a lot of evidence that masks do much good, and have pointedly not recommended their use by the general public. Swine flu is thought to be transmitted in much the same way as seasonal flu, by touching something with the virus and then passing it to the nose or mouth or through coughing or sneezing.

Experts say people who come in close contact with known swine flu patients should wear high filtration masks like those used by health professionals, which are more effective but also more expensive (about 12 pesos or a dollar) and generally unavailable in Mexico City. But even these masks, which filter out fine particles carried in the air, must be used properly to give real protection.

Iraqis display photo of alleged al-Qaida leader

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iraqi government presented the first image of the alleged leader of an al-Qaida front group Tuesday in a bid to prove the right suspect was in custody despite skepticism that he even exists.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki called Abu Omar al-Baghdadi “the head of evil” and accused him of trying to incite a sectarian civil war and working with other insurgents who remained loyal to Saddam Hussein.

“This criminal had close relations with the former regime and maintained a sinister alliance with Saddam’s followers,” he said in a statement released by his office.

Authorities described al-Baghdadi’s capture, which was announced last week, as a major setback for Sunni insurgents trying to intensify attacks after a relative lull.

But the capture or death of other high-ranking insurgent figures in the past—including former al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in 2006—has done little to slow the bombings.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said he could not confirm al-Baghdadi’s capture and described as “fairly accurate” a statement that every day that goes by without a confirmation increases the suspicion that it’s not him.

WORLD BRIEFS

3 men acquitted of helping 2005 London bombers

LONDON (AP)—Three men charged in London’s 2005 suicide bombings—Britain’s deadliest attack since World War II—were acquitted of the most serious offenses against them Tuesday in the latest terrorism case to frustrate prosecutors. A jury found Waheed Ali, Sadeer Saleem, and Mohammed Shakil not guilty of conspiring with four suicide bombers who blew themselves up on three subway cars and a bus on July 7, 2005, killing 52 people. Ali and Shakil were convicted of a lesser charge—conspiring to attend a terror training camp—and will be sentenced Wednesday. The

men were the only people ever charged in the attack. A different jury failed to reach a verdict in their case last year. Andy Hayman, a retired senior police officer who previously led the inquiry, said the trial had been the “last throw of the dice” for investigators. There are no new leads and police say their inquiry has been thwarted by the reluctance of potential witnesses in Britain’s Muslim community to come forward.

Official: Some Gitmo detainees will come to Europe

PRAGUE (AP)—U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder asked European officials Tuesday to accept some freed Guantanamo Bay detainees, and one government official at the meeting predicted he’ll get his wish. Meeting with a number of European officials to update extradition and legal cooperation treaties, Holder asked for their help in closing the U.S. military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. “We had a very frank conversation,” Holder said, adding later: “No promises were made.” About 240 inmates are still held at Guantanamo. As many as 60 may not be sent back to their home countries because of concerns they could be mistreated. When it comes to the prospect of having former international terror suspects living free in society, the Obama administration is trying to overcome the “not in my backyard”

sentiment that exists on both sides of the Atlantic. Ivan Langer, the Czech minister of interior, told The Associated Press he believes some European nations will accept Guantanamo detainees, though he doesn’t think his country will.

Game taken offline after Islamic group complains

CAIRO (AP)—An influential Islamic group branded an online video game depicting religious figures fighting each other as offensive to Muslims and Christians and successfully demanded Tuesday that it be taken offline. In the game “Faith Fighter,” caricatures of Jesus, the Prophet Muhammad, Buddha, God and the Hindu god Ganesh fight each other

against a backdrop of burning buildings. God attacks with bolts of lightning and pillars of fire while the turbaned Muhammad can summon a burning black meteorite. The Saudi-based Organization of the Islamic Conference, which represents most Muslim nations, said it should be removed from the Internet. “The computer game was incendiary in its content and offensive to Muslims and Christians. ... The game would serve no other purpose than to incite intolerance,” an OIC statement said. Game designer Molleindustria told the Associated Press the game, which had been around for more than a year and played millions of times, was misunderstood, but had been removed.

Environment

AQUACULTURE SCIENCE & SELF-RELIANCE

The mystery of the non-sprouting papaya seeds

By VALRICK WELCH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The scientific method always works; however, the experiments do not always provide the expected results. The SVES Young Farmers Club's experiments with the nine different varieties of papaya did not produce the expected results, with many not growing as expected, and many not even sprouting.

The steps of the experiment are as follows:

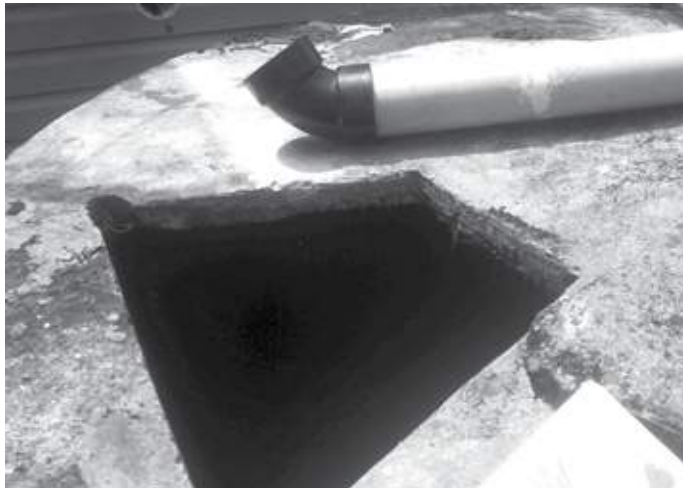
1. Ask a question: Which variety of papaya will grow best in the green house?

2. Do background research: The Red Lady variety does well on Saipan.

3. Construct hypothesis: The Red Lady variety will do well in the green house and other varieties may do as well or better.

4. Test with an experiment: Reduce the variables to one. Use the same soil, fertilizer, water, seeds, growing area, and planting methods. The only variable is the variety of papaya.

5. Analyze results, draw conclusion: Something is wrong, none of the varieties



The tank access opening at the top of the rain catchment tank.

did well and many of the seeds did not come up. Maybe the seeds are no good.

Step 3 again: Construct a new hypothesis: The papaya seeds are not growing because something is wrong with the seeds

4. Test with an experiment: Richard Gramlich and Pedro Arriola took seeds home to plant.

5. Analyze results-draw con-



Biomass collected in experimental filter after only one short rainfall.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Richard Gramlich next to biomass that he removed from the rain water catchment tank.

clusion: Over 90 percent of the papayas sprouted and grew, so the seeds are not the problem. Maybe the problem is the way the students planted the seeds, or the amount of water the students put on their plants, or something in the environment at San Vicente Elementary School.

Step 3 again: Construct a new hypothesis: The rainwater catchment tank had a lot of ironwood needles in the bottom. We notice that grass and plants grow under the flame trees, but not under the ironwood trees. Maybe the ironwood needles in the rainwater catchment tank are causing the papaya seeds not

to grow.

4. Test with an experiment: Clean the ironwood biomass out of the rainwater catchment tank and water the papayas with water that has not been mixed with the ironwood needles.

5. This part of the experiment is currently ongoing.

Richard Gramlich, the hydroponics manager, enjoys working with the SVES Young Farmers Club, and works hard to make the activities meaningful science learning experiences.

Manetti, the maintenance worker, and Gramlich have been constructing the temporary green house with a pump, sprinkler system, and rainwater catchment. The system needed to be cleaned so that dirt or leaves would not get into the sprinkler system and jam the misters.

Around 5:30am on Sunday morning, Gramlich decided that since he couldn't sleep he might as well get started cleaning the tank. When he climbed inside the tank, he was surprised to find the accumulated biomass on the bottom of the tank came almost to his knees. His immediate thought was, "The students have been watering their plants with ironwood tea, no wonder they are not growing."

Now Gramlich and Manetti are working on a rainwater catchment system that will catch the rainwater and filter out the unwanted particles. One design on the Internet uses three 50-gallon drums stacked into a single cylinder, as a standpipe, to catch the water and then overflow into the catchment tank. The 50-gallon drums act as a solids trap with only the freshwater being stored. They decided against this idea because many of the particles float for awhile before they become waterlogged and sink. Any floating debris would go to the catchment tank. The design they are working on now is to put a screen on the roof outlet, a trap, similar to a sink drain trap, between the roof and the tank, another screen on the inflow pipe, and finally another screen inside the tank on the water outlet.

The San Vicente Aquaculture Science & Self-Reliance project expects to provide all the water requirements for the hydroponics and green houses from the rainwater catchment. By next school year the project proposes to use rainwater combined with the deepwell pump, for backup, to supply all the water needs of San Vicente Elementary School.

Top 50 green power purchasers unveiled

EPA released last week a list of the nation's top green power purchasers. The list is led by Intel Corporation, PepsiCo, Kohl's Department Stores, Dell Inc., Whole Foods Market, The Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc., Johnson & Johnson, U.S. Air Force, Cisco Systems, Inc. and the City of Houston.

The nation's top 50 purchasers are buying more than 11 billion kilowatt-hours of green power annually, equivalent to the carbon dioxide emissions that would be produced from the electricity use of more than 1.1 million average American homes.

ON THE NET

- More information on top 50 list of green power purchasers: <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/toplists/top50.htm>
- Information on EPA's Green Power Partnership: <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower>

For the second year in a row, Intel Corporation is the nation's largest single purchaser of green power with purchases of more than 1.3 billion kWh of green power per year. This corresponds to CO2 emissions from the electricity use of nearly 130,000 average American homes.

Kohl's who more than doubled their green power purchase secured a No. 3 spot on the National Top 50 list. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Dannon, Sony DADC and Motorola for the first time appeared on the National Top 50 list securing the No. 15, No. 33, No. 40 and No. 44 spots, respectively.

EPA's Green Power Partnership works with more than 1,000 partner organizations to voluntarily purchase green power to reduce the environmental impacts of conventional electricity use. Overall, EPA Green Power Partners are buying more than 16 billion kWh of green power annually, equivalent to the CO2 emissions from electricity use of more than 1.5 million American homes.

Green power is generated from renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and low-impact hydropower. Green power electricity generates less pollution than conventional power and produces no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions. (EPA)

EPA urges all Americans: Cast your vote now vs skin cancer

EPA's SunWise program invites Americans to vote for the winner of the 2009 SunWise with SHADE national sun safety poster contest. The contest is co-sponsored by the SHADE Foundation of America and WeatherBug Schools, and asks children to craft catchy messages to prevent skin cancer. Striking more than 1million Americans every year, skin cancer accounts for half of all cancer cases in the United States.

"These young people are using their talents to share a valuable, life-saving lesson," said

EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "This is a fun way for them to address very serious concerns about sun safety and long term health hazards."

"Each year, I'm more and more amazed by the creativity in the posters we receive," said Shonda Schilling, founder and president of the SHADE Foundation. "Because one in five children grows up to develop skin cancer, it's more important than

ever to teach our kids how to be safe in the sun."

The annual contest is a collaborative effort to teach children ways to protect their skin and eyes from overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation. Since the contest's start seven years ago, more than 80,000 posters have been submitted. Out of the nearly 6,000 posters submitted this year, 37 state winners were selected by a panel of judges.

ON THE NET

- More information on SunWise and vote for your favorite poster: <http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/>

Each state winner is entered into an online voting competition to select the national winner. Online voting is open until May 10, 2009. The winner will be announced in mid-May before the first-ever Don't Fry Day, a national sun safety awareness day on May 22.

EPA's SunWise program is an environmental and health education program that teaches children and their caregivers how to protect themselves from overexposure to the sun. (EPA)

Life & Style

Heavenly,
without the hype

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Rocky areas at Carpinteria State Beach form tide pools.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

They get no respect. At least, that's what the Los Angeles Times' Travel staff thinks about these destinations. So much the better for the crafty traveler who can find a little slice of heaven away from the throngs.

Carpinteria, Calif.

Why people ignore it: A low-profile beach town, Carpinteria lives in the shadow of Santa Barbara, its glamorous big sister, just 12 miles up the coast.

Why you shouldn't: It's a charming, affordable family destination, where everyone can find something fun to do, less than 100 miles from Los Angeles.

The best place to start is a picnic table at the end of Linden Avenue, amid the dunes of Carpinteria State Beach. (Note: Tables under the two covered patios are often reserved for groups, so check with a ranger before you settle in.) Bring a picnic basket, fire up a grill or buy take-out cheeseburgers and shakes from the Spot, a longtime favorite.

Spend the day at the beach, where you can sunbathe, jog, build sand castles, gawk at sea lions (bring binoculars), collect shells, scan tide pools for sea anemones and starfish, catch rides on gentle surf or just do nothing. Hiking the bluffs is another option.

Walk a few blocks into town, and you'll find coffee shops, restaurants and stores selling surfing gear, gifts and more, plus a small history museum. Or bicycle the back roads into nearby Summerland for some antique browsing. At night, head for family places such as the Palms, where you can grill your own steaks.

Carpinteria makes an easy day trip from Los Angeles by car or by Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner train, which stops in town.

INFO

California State Parks, (805) 968-1033 (Channel Coast District), www.parks.ca.gov; City of Carpinteria, www.carpinteria.ca.us.

You can also overnight in a tent or RV at the state beach or at one of the handful of reasonably priced (but not always cheap on summer weekends) hotels, such as the Best Western Carpinteria Inn and Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites. State



LOS ANGELES TIMES

The California Capitol glows at dusk in a view from Capitol Mall.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Attractions at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento include vintage trains and a simulated Pullman ride.

campsites book up months ahead, especially for summer, so reserve early.

For a splurge, try Pruffrock's Garden Inn, a B&B in a century-old house not far from the beach. (Jane Engle)

Disneyland Resort/
Walt Disney Studio
Park, Paris

Why people ignore it: EuroDisney, as it was called when it opened in 1992, came in for a lot of criticism, especially in France, where the advent of an American-style theme park was seen as cultural imperialism. For its first 10 years, the park was in financial trouble.

Why you shouldn't: Now Disneyland Paris and Walt Disney Studio Park (which opened in 2002) are the biggest tourist attractions in Europe, drawing 15.3 million visitors last year with such rides as Rock 'n' Roller Coaster, starring Aerosmith, Space Mountain Mission 2 and Pirates of the Caribbean, many more modern than the versions at Disney parks in the U.S. There are seven places to stay (including Disney's New York and Chey-

INFO

www.disneylandparis.co.uk/index.xhtml

enne hotels), the Disney Village shopping and entertainment center, and an 18-hole golf course.

A couple of days at Disneyland Paris might be a much-appreciated reward for little ones after being dragged through European museums and historical sites. Some Americans like it better than the Disneys in Florida and California because of its relative newness.

The pair of Disney parks is in Marne-la-Vallée just east of Paris, linked to the city by the RER suburban train. Air France and Eurostar (from London) offer all-inclusive packages, as do the hotels in the park. Look for low-season rates mid-April to mid-July, mid-September to early December, and mid-January to late March. (Susan Spano)

Sacramento, Calif.

Why people ignore it: Just 80 miles from the breezy, self-consciously quaint tourist magnet of San Francisco, Sacramento is anything but. Saddled with hot summers, a dysfunctional legislature and, earlier this year, a Depression-style tent camp, California's capital hardly seems like a vacation destination.

Why you shouldn't: History, history, history. Sacramento is the real deal: a living museum of 19th century architecture.

Old Sacramento, a 28-acre state park along the

riverfront, is said to contain the greatest concentration of historic buildings in California.

Not far away, the Capitol, a splendid 19th century edifice replete with elaborate mosaics, has been lovingly restored and can be toured for free.

More than a dozen museums, historic parks and memorials dot the city. They include Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, with a reconstruction of John Sutter's 1839 adobe; the incomparable California State Railroad Museum, housing 20 locomotives dating as far back as the 1860s; the eclectic Crock-

FOR MORE INFO

Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau, (800) 292-2334, www.discovergold.org.

er Art Museum; the old Governor's Mansion; and the new California Hall of Fame.

Fans of vintage riverboats shouldn't miss the Delta King, a restored 1920s stern-wheeler that has been converted into a hotel, lounge and restaurant. The King, a twin to the Delta Queen, which recently suspended overnight excursions, is moored along the Sacramento River.

Sacramento is a manageable city, with less than 500,000 residents, and everything is so close you can see plenty in a short time. (Jane Engle)

Kailua, Hawaii

Why people ignore it: How does a community compete with Waikiki, which is nearly a straight shot from the airport, boasts a host of glitz and glam stores and hotels and some top-drawer restaurants? It can't.

Why they shouldn't: The drive alone is worth it. You take Hawaii Highway 61 out of Honolulu, climbing gently upward. Above the tunnels is the lookout, and on a clear day you can see Kaneohe and Kailua bays. On any day, you can recall the battle that Kamehameha I waged in 1795 as he fought to unify the islands; here, it's said, about 400 of the enemy troops went over the cliffs—the Pali—to their death.

As you descend into Kailua town, you may be underwhelmed. It's the anti-Waikiki. In fact, it's so un-glam that you'll be tempted to turn around and go back.

INFO

www.kailuachamber.com.

Don't. Drive to Kailua Beach Park and park yourself on the beach. Dip a toe or 10 into the ocean; it's bathwater warm and the waves are generally gentle. Take a mental snapshot of the gently curving bay, the ironwood trees, the ocean lapping at the sand. It is a harmonic convergence of the senses, and as you drift off to sleep—and you will—you will know this is how Hawaii was meant to be experienced. (Catharine Hamm)

See HEAVENLY on Next Page

HEAVENLY

From Page 18

Cape Ann, Mass.

Why people ignore it: Because, in the book of New England conventional wisdom, Cape Cod is where beautiful people go and Cape Ann is where cod fishermen come from. Because Paul Simon was thinking of Gloucester (Cape Ann's biggest city) when he wrote "My Little Town." ("Nothing but the dead and dying . . .") Because Sebastian Junger painted such a gritty picture of the place in "The Perfect Storm."

Why you shouldn't: Because Cape Ann is not only a great stretch of rocky coast about 40 miles north of Boston and one of America's oldest fishing ports (records date to 1623), it's also a cross-section of Yankee humanity, from blue-collar Gloucester to affluent Rockport.

For the historical big picture, check out the Cape Ann Museum, 27 Pleasant St., and don't miss the sloop that Howard Blackburn, alone and fingerless, sailed from here to Portugal in 1901. (Better yet, go to learn the even more incredible story of how Blackburn lost his fingers in the first place.)

Milton Avery, Stuart Davis, Marsden Hartley, Childe Hassam, Winslow Homer and Fitz Henry Lane painted here, as did Edward Hopper. Rudyard Kipling set "Captains Courageous"

INFO

www.seecapeann.com,
www.rockportusa.com.

here. T.S. Eliot spent many summers in the neighborhood, and from the late 1950s until his death early this year, John Updike lived for half a century in Ipswich and Beverly Farms.

For a century or so, Gloucester's smaller northern neighbor Rockport has been the area's prime tourist destination: a classic New England main street, with its white-steepled church, upscale shops and eateries. There are a few hotels, two dozen B&Bs, a long-standing art colony on a finger of land called Rocky Neck, a kitschy tourist promenade on Bearskin Neck, and a handsome red shack on the wharf that's such an inspiration for so many amateur painters that locals call it "Motif No. 1."

My mother spent every summer of her childhood in Cape Ann, creeping around Pigeon Cove and swimming in the flooded granite quarries. Seventy-five years later, she keeps a framed nautical map of the area on her wall in Pasadena, Calif.

One more thing: The most spectacular sunrise of my life so far was witnessed from the Captain's Bounty Motor Inn, 1 Beach St., Rockport, in the summer of 1999. (Christopher Reynolds)

Singapore

Why people ignore it: This former British trading colony south of the Malaysian peninsula has a repressive reputation based on news reports that it censors movies, executes drug smugglers and even bans chewing gum. And it's not exactly around the corner.

Why you shouldn't: Well, for one thing, you can chew gum in Singapore if it has a higher purpose, such as teeth whitening.

But more important, for tourists at least, this international crossroads offers exotic food, lush scenery, diverse cultures, sophisticated shopping, world-class museums, an enthralling zoo and, of course, Raffles, arguably the world's best-known hotel.

A 19th century icon of colonial history, Raffles "stands for all the fables of the exotic East," author-guest W. Somerset Maugham once wrote.

Generations of presidents and princes have slept at the ornate hotel or slipped into its Long Bar to sip its signature Singapore sling, a sweet, pink concoction. By day, the Tiffin Room also serves a delightful tea.

But you don't need a king's ransom to enjoy Singapore. Street food in city enclaves such as Little India is cheap and delicious. Most costs, including transit, are reasonable.

Thanks to the country's mix of Malaysian, Indian, British and Chinese people and cultures, lo-

cal restaurants are just the ticket to a trip around the world. Be sure to sample Peranakan dishes, a blend of Chinese and Malaysian cooking.

Another don't-miss: the lushly landscaped Singapore Zoological Gardens and, next door, the Night Safari, where a tram takes you to see prowling tigers, dangling bats and other creatures after dark.

Singapore's people are friendly too.

Just don't do drugs. (June Engle)

Cayucos, Calif.

Why people ignore it: Even though it's right on the coast, 21 miles north of San Luis Obispo and 13 miles south of Cambria, you hardly notice it from Highway 1. Also, it's little (population about 3,000), and it doesn't have a university or art galleries or a hotel showcase street like Cambria's Moonstone Beach Drive.

Why you shouldn't: Cayucos still feels like an old-fashioned, kid-friendly beach town, a place where you'd rent bikes, or go all day without shoes. It has a pier and a broad sandy beach, and about 15 hotels, motels and B&Bs. It also has a bunch of rental houses because for decades, people from the San Joaquin Valley have come here in summer to escape the three-digit heat.

Cayucos is within easy range of Paso Robles wine tasting, Morro Bay kayaking or Hearst Castle wealth coveting, or maybe the Thursday night farmers market in SLO. But you might just want to flop. Maybe have a casual lunch at Duckie's Chowder House (55 Cayucos Drive, by the pier), or a fancy dinner at Hoppe's Garden Bistro and Wine Shop (78 Ocean Ave.). (Christopher Reynolds)

INFO

www.cayucosbythesea.com.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cayucos, Calif., a kid-friendly beach town, may not have as big a footprint as neighbors San Luis Obispo or Cambria, but therein lies the charm if you're in the mood for an old-fashioned coastal getaway.

East-Central Wisconsin

Why people ignore it: It is a relatively obscure area in what West Coasters refer to—often derisively—as "the heartland." In the nation's eye, this has always been America's dairy land, or a giant tavern for Cheeseheads. Far from major cities, it's not the sort of place you stumble across while traveling on business. The hipness factor? Next to nothing.

FOR MORE INFO

Wisconsin Department of Tourism, (800) 432-8747, www.tourism.state.wi.us, or Door County tourist info, www.doorcounty.com.

Why you shouldn't: This is a sparkling getaway amid tall trees and seascapes. Here, the air is sweeter and the beer is colder. It's what passes for "God's Country" in this long neck of the woods.

Recreation-wise, the region pulses with options: kayaking, fishing, white-water rafting and great hiking. The area has thousands of pristine lakes.

The Door Peninsula, which juts into Lake Michigan like a thumb, should be on any traveler's list. Once mostly a fishing destination, it now features enough shopping, dining and inn-hopping to keep this area bustling in summer with refugees from Chicago and the Twin Cities.

This particular area is a little bit Maine, a little



Two sunbathers get lost in books on a lazy day at the 2 1/2 mile beach at Kailua Bay, an excellent place for swimming and kayaking on Oahu's eastern side.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

bit Tahoe, but with far better fishing. The highways along the bay, 57 and 42, lead to fish boils, old light-houses and fields of wildflowers. At the tip of the peninsula is heavily forested Washington Island. Stop in Egg Harbor for breakfast, then push north for a ferry ride to the island. (Chris Erskine)

Kansas' Flint Hills

Why people ignore it: It's Kansas, and we get excited about Kansas only during March Madness, if at all.

Why you shouldn't: It's a funny place, Kansas. A place people think should be driven through on the way to somewhere else, where miles and miles of wheat and milo fields are punctuated by the occasional house or barn but mostly tamped

wish it could last forever. (Catharine Hamm)

Naples, Italy

Why people ignore it: No city has such bad press as Naples, known for crime (petty and organized), toxic waste, poverty, unemployment and general dilapidation, not to mention last year's trash crisis when months went by without garbage collection.

Why they shouldn't: You have to be careful, selective and stoical when visiting Naples. But to give it a pass would be to miss one of Italy's most intense cities, cleaving to the coast under Mount Vesuvius, gazing over one of the world's most beautiful bays.

INFO

www.italiantourism.com/campania.html.

Sights in the historic center include the incomparable Museo Archeologico Nazionale, 17th century Palazzo Reale and teeming Spagnoli Quarter, home of the classic Neapolitan fresh mozzarella cheese pizza.

Commuter trains easily reach the archaeological sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum, and ferries ply the Bay of Naples between the city and the fabled islands of Capri and Ischia.

And you can expect rates for accommodations and meals somewhat lower than in more popular Italian destinations such as Florence and Venice. (Susan Spano)

The Mississippi River

Why people ignore it: Maybe because the Midwest and the South can get beastly hot. In summer, even some locals edge toward the coasts.

Why you shouldn't: This river, which touches 10 states and covers about 2,550 miles, might be the single most vital artery in the American character. Depending on which stretch of the river you choose, this is where Laura Ingalls Wilder was born (Pepin, Wis.), where Mark Twain was raised (Hannibal, Mo.), where Louis Armstrong first picked up a trumpet (New Orleans). And if you make your visit in early July, you're bound to run into summer and Independence Day fairs, festivals, fireworks and all manner of fried foods. It's America, sweet and savory.

INFO

www.experiencemississippiriver.com;
www.roadsideamerica.com.

You could fly to Minneapolis, then drive up to Lake Itasca (headwaters of the Mississippi) or Bemidji (where statues of Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, Babe, have stood since 1937). You could dip south to charming little Trempealeau, Wis., or browse the prosperous shops and brick buildings of Galena, Ill.

Or fly into Memphis, Tenn., pay respects at Graceland, listen to a tune on Beale Street and flock to the big old Peabody Hotel for the ritual daily procession of ducks through the lobby. Once you've done that, you could head south through about 400 miles of slow drawls, droopy trees and antebellum mansions, then pause for a little food and live music. You'll be in New Orleans, a pretty good town for that. (Christopher Reynolds)

INFO

www.nps.gov/tapr and www.travelks.com.

delicious desolation.

It is more fun, I think, to drive from Emporia on U.S. 50, then to Kansas 150 and along U.S. 56 and find a safe stopping point. It is here, on a perfect spring day or a crisp autumn afternoon, that you know you have found the heart and soul of bluestem grass country. You will hear nothing but the pure strain of a meadowlark's song or the sweep of the wind through the grass. You are alone in the quiet. It's a moment that you may

Abdul compares Adam Lambert to Michael Phelps

NEW YORK (AP)—Paula Abdul stopped just short of declaring Adam Lambert the future winner of “American Idol.”

Instead, she compared him to a certain Olympic swimmer.

The “Idol” judge praised yet another Lambert performance Tuesday night, telling the 27-year-old actor that each week “it’s like watching the Olympics and you’re our Michael Phelps.”

Lambert was the final performer on the “Rat Pack”-themed show. He strutted down a neon pink-lighted staircase while seductively crooning “Feeling Good,” which has been famously sung by Nina Simone and Sammy Davis Jr.

Indeed, as the popular Fox show winds down to the finale, it seems Lambert is destined for a spot in the showdown to win the title.

Who else will compete to the end?

That’s anybody’s guess as the other four finalist delivered strong renditions of retro “Rat Pack” standards.

Jamie Foxx—a stylish singer himself—was the guest mentor.

Foxx, who has the hit song “Blame It” on the charts, helped Danny Gokey channel his inner Frank Sinatra.

The Academy Award winner demanded that Gokey sing a few notes of “Come Rain or Shine” just inches away from Foxx’s face, holding his gaze the entire time. Whatever he did must have worked—because Gokey wound up on Simon Cowell’s good side after the acerbic judge criticized him for a lack of star power last week.

“What you had tonight was swagger and confidence,” Cowell told the 28-year-old Milwaukee native.

Cowell was on a roll Tuesday. While the rest of the judges’ panel



In this April 21, 2009 file photo released by Fox, contestant Adam Lambert performs on “American Idol” in Los Angeles.

gave Kris Allen high marks for his sexy take on “The Way You Look Tonight,” he inexplicably described the rendition as “wet.”

Ryan Seacrest, not letting that comment slip by, asked: “What do you mean by wet?”

Cowell’s cryptic answer: “Not dry.”

Meanwhile, Allen’s father made a face.

And Cowell, ever the contrarian, took an opposite view of Allison Iraheta’s bluesy cover of “Someone To Watch Over Me.”

“I have a horrible feeling you could be in trouble tonight,” he told Iraheta, noting a “mechanical” feel to her performance and a lack of confidence.

But Iraheta, who turned 17 Monday, drew rave reviews from Abdul, Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi, who called Cowell “crazy.”

“If that doesn’t land you in the finals, I don’t know what will,” DioGuardi reassured Iraheta.

The judges were split on Matt Giraud. Jackson rated Giraud’s “My Funny Valentine” as a “six out of 10,” and DioGuardi—one of his biggest supporters—didn’t feel he connected to the emotionally charged ballad.

But Abdul and Cowell begged to differ.

“It was the only believable authentic song I’ve heard tonight,” Cowell told Giraud, who performed in the middle of the telecast. Cowell compared Giraud’s vocal phrasing to that of Nat King Cole.

Another aspiring Idol will get the boot on Wednesday’s elimination show, and the two-part finale is three weeks away.

Restraining order issued in Spears case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has ordered Britney Spears’ former manager and an attorney to stay away from the pop singer for the next three years.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Aviva K. Bobb issued her ruling Tuesday after hearing testimony and arguments in recent weeks from the men and lawyers for Spears’ father, Jamie.

Bobb ordered Osama “Sam” Lutfi and attorney Jon Eardley to stay away from the 27-year-old pop singer and to not contact, threaten or try to act on her or her sons’ behalf for the next three years.

Bobb refused to extend the same protection to Spears’ parents.

The singer’s court-appointed lawyer, Samuel Ingham, endorsed issuing the orders during a hearing last week, saying they were in Spears’ “best interests.”

Lawyers for Lutfi and Eardley promised to appeal the ruling, saying the lengthy hearing didn’t prove the singer suffered substantial emotional distress as a result of the men’s actions.

Lutfi’s attorney, Bryan J. Freedman, said evidence instead pointed to Spears asking his client for help.

“Never before in the history of the world has a restraining order been issued against someone who merely responded to cries for help,” Freedman said.

Roger Diamond, who represented Eardley, said it was disappointing that the ruling didn’t spell out the judge’s reasoning for issuing the orders.

Jamie Spears and his lawyers petitioned for lengthy restraining orders against the men in January, arguing that the pair were conspiring along with paparazzo Adnan Ghalib to undermine the conservatorship. Bobb last month issued a three-year restraining order against Ghalib, who is the singer’s former boyfriend.

The hearing had been conducted over several days in the past two months, with testimony from Jamie Spears and his daughter’s security detail and a hairdresser. The hairdresser testified that Britney Spears told her she was scared of Lutfi and didn’t want to have anything to do with him.

Ghalib never appeared in court or contested the restraining order, but is due back in a criminal court next month on felony charges that he tried to run down a man attempting to deliver papers notifying him of the restraining order case.

The server, Ram Moskowitz, sued Ghalib in civil court for assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Jamie Spears’ lawyer, Joel Boxer, said the restraining order request was “unusual,” but was necessary to protect the singer from “people who I think are fairly characterized as predators.”

Boxer said in Lutfi’s case, the contact amounted to breaking a promise to not contact Spears, which was reached in an agreement between him and Jamie Spears last summer.

Catfight thriller ‘Obsessed’ claws way to No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ladies, ladies, please! We don’t have to tear each other apart in the name of love or jealousy or territory or fame.

But when we do, people will watch—as they did this past weekend, when the thriller “Obsessed” scratched and clawed its way to the top of the box office.

Featuring Beyonce Knowles as a wife whose marriage is threatened by another woman (Ali Larter) and propelled by a furniture-smashing catfight between the two sexy stars, “Obsessed” made a surprising \$28.6 million in its opening weekend.

So what is it about the catfight that’s so irresistible? Maybe it’s all that animalistic physical contact—the slapping and grappling, the hair-pulling and body-slamming—which is so passionate, it seems to hold the promise that the women involved just might end up kissing afterward.

It’s a long and not-so-proud pop culture tradition. Some choice examples:

■ Linda Evans vs. Joan Collins on “Dynasty”: Pretty much the gold standard for shlock—the defining guilty-pleasure moment in a series notorious for them. You know the back story: Krystle (Evans) is wealthy Blake Carrington’s wife, Alexis (Collins) is his vicious ex. Lots of girly pushing and splashing in the lily pond until Krystle starts repeatedly punching Alexis in the face. Thankfully, the shoulder pads on their dresses can be used as flotation devices.

■ Denise Richards vs. Neve Campbell in “Wild Things”: This is, like, the ultimate male fantasy because it truly is a hair-yanking, swimming-pool cat-

fight that evolves into a make-out session. The naughty rich girl (Richards) and the naughty poor girl (Campbell) smack each other—hard—but their sapphic tendencies, and their joint interest in framing Matt Dillon for rape, bring them together.

■ Sigourney Weaver vs. the Alien Queen in “Aliens”: Such a famous movie moment, they even turned it into a DirecTV commercial. Weaver climbs inside a big, clunky, metal loader to take on the mama alien whose sweet little hatchlings have been causing so much carnage. The line she growls at the start—“Get away from her, you bitch!”—is a classic.

■ Michelle Yeoh vs. Zhang Ziyi in “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”: OK, so maybe this doesn’t qualify as a catfight in the traditional sense. As part of a film

that won four Academy Awards, including the foreign-language award, it’s too classy, too artsy, too elegant. But it does feature two gorgeous women trying to destroy each other, albeit with exquisite choreography.

■ Shirley MacLaine vs. Anne Bancroft in “The Turning Point”: Two veteran actresses square off as former friends and ballerinas in this 1977 drama. MacLaine’s Deedee, who gave up her career to have a family, is the mother of Emelia, a promising young dancer herself. Bancroft’s Emma is a fading star who latches onto Emelia and lives vicariously through the girl’s fresh success. Years of resentments explode when the two women go at it in front of the theater on Emelia’s opening night.

■ Lois Griffin vs. Gloria Ironbox on



In this film publicity image released by Screen Gems, Beyonce Knowles is shown in a scene from “Obsessed.”

Another celebrity leaves 'Dancing' country

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chuck Wicks is leaving the "Dancing With the Stars" ballroom.

The country singer and his professional dance partner (and real-life girlfriend) Julianne Hough were eliminated from the ABC dance-off Tuesday.

Wicks had improved steadily throughout the season, earning praise from the judges for his "hip action" and fun-loving attitude. Judges loved their cha-cha Monday, with Carrie Ann Inaba insisting, "You are definitely in the game." Wicks also appeared in a group dance, which ended with him and his fellow male dancers in black leotards and white tights.

The 29-year-old musician came into Tuesday's results show with a solid 51 points out of 60, but fans failed to keep him afloat.

Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine which couple is eliminated each week.

"To all the critics that thought we weren't going to last: We did it," Wicks said after learning his fate. "Now I'm going to go out on tour and enjoy doing what I love, and that's country music."

The week's low scorer, Melissa Rycroft, escaped elimination. She missed Monday's show because of a rib injury and earned just 21 out of 30 points



In this photo released by ABC, Julianne Hough, left, and Chuck Wicks perform on Dancing with the Stars Monday April 27, 2009 in Los Angeles.

from judges for a taped rehearsal performance. "It shows you how many fans Melissa has," Wicks said, adding, "I think the team dance did us in."

Tuesday's results show also

included a performance by Robin Thicke and the continuation of the new professional dance competition: Four pro dancers are vying for viewer votes and a spot on the next season of

"Dancing With the Stars."

Besides Rycroft, four celebrity contestants remain: Rapper Lil Kim, rodeo champ Ty Murray, Olympic gymnast Shawn Johnson and actor Gilles Marini.

Parker, Broderick expecting twins by surrogate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick will be taking on new roles: parents of twin girls.

The "Sex and the City" star and her actor-husband are expecting twins through a surrogate pregnancy, representatives for the couple said Tuesday.

Parker, 44, and Broderick, 47, "are happily anticipating the birth of their twin daughters later this summer with the generous help of a surrogate. The entire family is overjoyed," said a statement from the publicists.

The couple has a 6-year-old son, James Wilkie Broderick, and will mark their 12th wed-

ding anniversary next month.

Details about the surrogate or her pregnancy were unavailable, the publicists said.

Parker starred in the "Sex and the City" TV series and the hit movie of the same name. Broderick's credits include the films "Glory" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and the Broadway musical "The Producers."

In this April 27, 2009 file photo, actors Matthew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker attend the premiere of "Wonderful World" during the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival, in New York.

AP



ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Hugh Jackman visit to Mexico canceled

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Even the mighty Wolverine is taking precautions when it comes to swine flu. Film distributor 20th Century Fox says it has canceled actor Hugh Jackman's scheduled appearance in Mexico City to promote "X-Men Origins: Wolverine." The U.S. and several other countries have warned citizens to avoid nonessential travel to Mexico, where the number of deaths blamed on the new virus has surpassed 150. Meanwhile, movie theaters in Mexico City are closed to help prevent the flu from spreading. 20th Century Fox representative Christina Inman says a Mexico premiere at the National Auditorium and media events on Wednesday have been canceled until further notice.

Spokesman: Farrah Fawcett's condition unchanged

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A spokesman says Farrah Fawcett's condition is unchanged as the actress battles cancer. Earlier this month, the 62-year-old "Charlie's Angels" star was treated at a hospital for internal bleeding that her physician said wasn't directly related to her anal and liver cancer. Spokesman Arnold Robinson said Tuesday that Fawcett is at her Los Angeles area home, where she had a weekend visit with Redmond O'Neal, her son with actor Ryan O'Neal. The 24-year-old Redmond O'Neal was allowed out of jail briefly to visit his mother. O'Neal, who allegedly was caught with heroin while visiting a jail facility north of Los Angeles, was due in court Wednesday.

2 Bahamians plead not guilty in Travolta case

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—An ambulance driver and a former senator have pleaded not guilty to charges that they tried to extort \$25 million from actor John Travolta following the death of his teenage son in the Bahamas. Former Sen. Pleasant Bridgewater remains free on \$50,000 bail as does Tarino Lightbourne. He also no longer has to report daily to police. They pleaded not guilty Tuesday to conspiracy to commit extortion and aiding to attempted extortion. Both are accused of demanding money to keep secret a document related to the treatment of the celebrity's son. Jett Travolta died of a seizure in January at a family vacation home in Grand Bahama. The trial is scheduled for Sept. 21.

Mr. T called for jury duty

CHICAGO (AP)—Pity the prospective juror named Mr. T. He showed up for jury duty, then was dismissed after hours of down time—which he used to sign autographs and pose for pictures. Mr. T was called for jury duty at Cook County Circuit Court on Monday. The Chicago native said he enjoyed fulfilling his civic responsibilities, even though he found—like countless others—that hours can pass before a judge decides to dismiss you. He showed up for jury duty in camouflage pants, a T-shirt and a longer version of his usual Mohawk haircut. Mr. T is best remembered for the 1980s TV series "The A-Team" and as Clubber Lang in "Rocky III," from which his catch phrase come from: "I pity the fool."

Daughter's close call is dire warning to 'invincible' teens

DEAR ABBY: Prom and graduation season has arrived with all of the celebrating that goes along with it. So please print my letter for parents and teens to read—perhaps together.

My daughter was an honor student all through high school. We had a close relationship. I always made sure she knew she could come to me with any problem, whether it be her grades, alcohol or sex. On the issue of drinking and driving, I made her understand that wherever she was, I would gladly pick her up—no questions asked. I have heard that many parents make the same offer to their children.

I firmly believed that my daughter would call me if she needed to. However, she recently decided she could drive home after drinking what she considered to be "a safe amount of alcohol." Unfortunately, she struck a utility pole on a sharp turn and flipped her car over. By the grace of God, she and her friend escaped with minor injuries. But, as you know, many people don't survive such a horrific accident.

Abby, many parents say, "It won't happen to my child." Teens think they are invincible, but tragedy happens to people from all walks of life and all kinds of families. I feel blessed that both girls are still alive to appreciate their second lease on life, but it makes me sad to think about how many kids don't return home each night. Can you comment, Abby?



Dear Abby

GRATEFUL MOM IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR GRATEFUL MOM: Not a year goes by that we don't hear news reports about drinking-and-driving tragedies—and they are not limited to teens. Because of that, I am pleased to print your letter.

What happened to your daughter illustrates that people who have been drinking are not always aware to what extent it has impaired their judgment. And it's not limited to drinking and driving. People under the influence have been known to make more than one kind of life-changing miscalculation because they are tipsy.

Your daughter and her friend were indeed lucky. Not only could one or both of them have been killed, either of them could have suffered a lifelong injury from that escapade.

Parents: Please discuss this letter with your teen today!

DEAR ABBY: I am worried about our little ones who hear bad language on a daily basis. How is that going to go over when they reach school age?

I'll give you an example. My 3-year-old great-grandson called his mother a "dork." When I commented that he must have learned that at child care, she said, "No, he heard it from me." I was appalled.

Then there was the adorable, precocious 2-year-old who said, "Oh, #@*%!" when I dropped something. I looked at her grandmother, who informed me that the little girl hears it from her other grandma all the time.

How can the parents of these precious little children allow this to happen? How do you think it will go over when they call their teacher a "dork" or use expletives in the classroom and on the playground?

RED-FACED GRAMMA, McHENRY, ILL.

DEAR GRAMMA: For better or worse, children model their behavior on what they hear at home. You can't blame children for not knowing what they haven't been taught. But I can tell you this, no teachers worth their salt will allow a student to be disrespectful in the classroom and let it go. And the person who will suffer is the student.

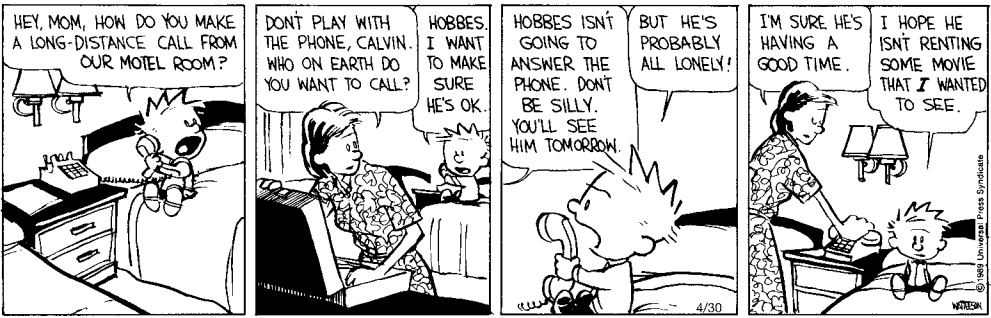
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



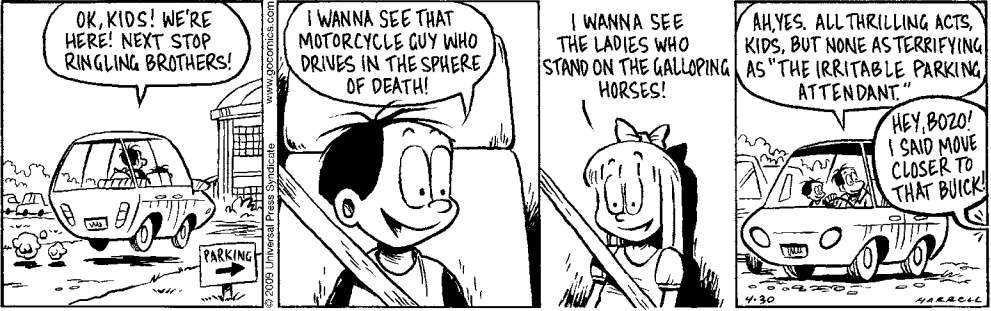
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



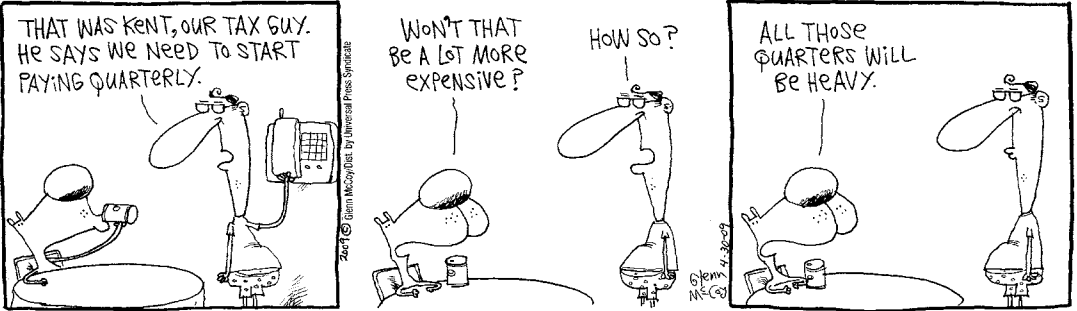
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 From square one

5 Orsk's river

9 Bumped into

12 — noire

13 Narc's measure

14 Skilled fighter pilot

15 February 2

17 That lass

18 Puts on a show

19 Salts town

21 Ego counter-part

22 Binge

24 Base runner's goal

27 "I — Camera"

28 Rodents do it

31 Playwright Levin

32 Folk-song mule

33 Bambi's aunt

34 Network

DOWN

1 Rudiments

2 Spruce

3 Sicilian spouter

4 Shoe with a triangular sole

5 Mando-lins' kin

6 Edge

7 Carte intro

8 Also-ran

9 "Le Cid" composer

10 Musical come-back

11 Abound

16 Opened

20 Cribbage scorer

22 Huge hit

23 Good place to get a date

24 That guy

25 Tramcar contents

26 Elephant's ancestor

27 — Minor

29 One or more

30 Main ingredient in lipstick

35 Car-pool-lane abbr.

37 Beethoven piece

39 Copy

40 "Bei — Bist du Schön"

41 Baby carriage

42 Carnival attraction

43 Traffic pylon

44 Eastern potentate

45 Pepper spray

46 Requests

49 Summer-time mo.

50 Zero

Solution time: 25 mins.

OMNI BLT AJAR
ROAD LEE PANE
BAIL OUTS PITA
STREWN TILLER
RED STAB
POT DEN SUITE
ERAS REV DRAG
AGITA OAK DUO
LAMB REB
COWBOY SEESAW
AXIL FAILSAFE
GENE ANT OGRE
ENDS RAY TOOK

Yesterday's answer 4-30

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14
15 16 17
18 19 20
21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31 32 33
34 35 36 37
38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46
47 48 49 50
51 52 53
54 55 56

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Kirsten Dunst, 27; Jeff Timmons, 36; Isaiah Thomas, 48; Jill Clayburgh, 65

Happy Birthday: Don't be fooled by false promises. Use discretion in order to put your talents and services to the best use. Do not lose sight of your own goals. Discuss what you want to accomplish with someone who might complement your plans. Your numbers are 2, 9, 13, 25, 28, 30, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Problems at home can cause emotional flare-ups but, if you focus on what you can do outside the home, you will fare much better. There should be no power plays going on in your life. Back away from controversy, hearsay and game-playing people. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Consider what's missing from your life. You need a hobby or something that brings you joy if you want to feel content with life. Once you make the needed changes, the rest will come easy. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): By helping others, finding solutions or making reforms, your reputation will be enhanced. Offer your services, talents and know-how and you will build a solid following of individuals capable of helping you reach your goals. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A problem with love will mount if you bring your thoughts and feelings out into the open. You will not like the results you get if you are possessive or demanding. Go about your business and avoid feuds. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Unexpected change will be the result of a chance meeting with a new acquaintance. By taking part in events you have not been involved with in the past, new opportunities will develop. Love is in the stars so finalize plans for the week-end. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Reevaluate your position and you'll realize what you are up against and what you must do to get things to work. Deal with a money matter promptly. Don't let someone you love cost you financially. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will feel emotional regarding home and work relationships. Don't overreact. Someone who recognizes you aren't on top of your game will challenge you. Avoid turmoil by removing yourself from the line of fire. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have to take care of things yourself if you want them done properly and on time. You will have more options than what someone is giving you. Back away from a force play. You can do better on your own. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Protect your assets. Deals can be signed, sealed and delivered if you are pushy. You will be able to make the changes you've wanted to make at home and to your financial portfolio. A legal matter can be resolved. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone you have other interests in may offer you a partnership. Your closest advisor

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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will caution you not to mix business with pleasure. Time is on your side, giving you the room to take in all that's being offered as well as what will be expected of you. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make some adjustments to your current lifestyle and you will find ways to adjust your income or means of making cash. There is an opportunity to take on a position that will not affect your current status but will benefit you financially and personally. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make the personal changes that will boost your confidence and give you a new lease on life. A serious emotional realization will benefit a relationship you are in and help you make a decision to ease your financial burden. *****

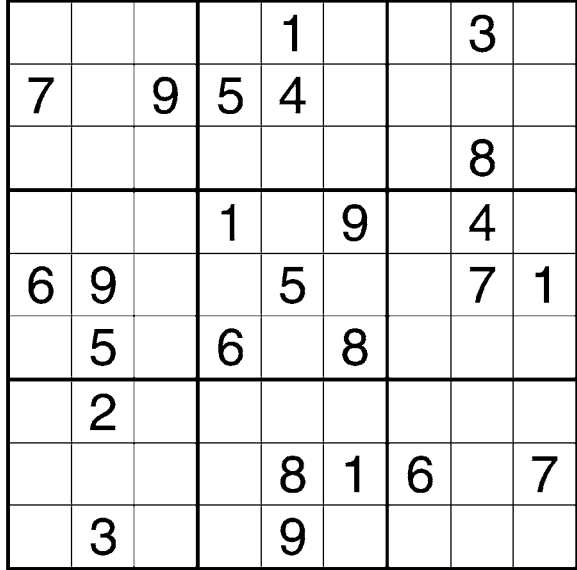
Birthday Baby: You have a strong will and will challenge whatever you don't like. You are a true friend and a passionate lover. You make concessions for the ones you love.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

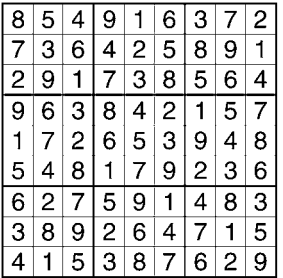


Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/29

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

USING CHILI POWDER

Solution: 6 letters



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Additive, Ancho, Aroma, Cayenne, Chicken, Chili, Chipotle, Cloves, Cook, Coriander, Corn, Cumin, Dish, Dried, Fish, Flavor, Flour, Food, Ground beef, Heat, Kick, Mace, Marinade, Meat, Medium, Mexican, Mild, Mixture, Nutmeg, Pasilla, Pepper, Pizza, Preservative, Pure, Recipe, Rice, Rubs, Salt, Sauce, Spice, Tamales, Taste, Tortillas, Tradition, Vegetable

Yesterday's Answer: Blooming
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~~hold~~
~~holed~~ Shakespeare

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|---|---|-----------------------|
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| Lot 037 L 54 | 929 Square Meters vacant Land Obyan, Saipan | Appraised At \$20,400 |
| Lot 010 K 215 | 929 Square Meters of Vacant Land Dandan Homestead, Saipan | Appraised At \$25,000 |
| Lot 001 G128 | 738 Square Meters with tin house Kagman, Saipan | Appraised At \$29,000 |
| Lot 001 G 46 | 768 Square Meters with semi concrete house Kagman, Saipan | Appraised At \$40,000 |
| Lot EA 109 New 2-2 | 2,000 Square Meters Vacant Land Chalan Kiya, Saipan | Appraised At \$32,000 |
| Lot 117-3-1-R1 | 2,329 Square Meters Vacant Land As Teo, Saipan | Appraised At \$25,000 |
| Lot 252 T 05 | 2,000 Vacant Land Marpo Valley, Tinian | Make Offer |
| Lot 026 T 119 | 1,000 Square Meters Vacant Land Marpo Valley-Kanadan, Tinian | Make Offer |
| Lots 026 T47, T48, T49, T50 | 4,418 Square Meters Vacant Land Marpo, Tinian | Appraised At \$35,000 |
| Lot 349 R 06 | 1,000 Square Meters of vacant land Sinapalo, Rota | Appraised At \$5,000 |
| Tract 21769-3-R1 | 825 Square Meters of Vacant Land Ginalangan, Rota | Appraised At \$5,800 |
| Tract No's 22142-1, 2,3,4,& 5 | 5,000 Square Meters Vacant Land Ginalangan, Rota | Appraised At \$25,000 |
| Lot 419 R 04,05,09,10 & 11 Lot 422 R 03,04 | Vacant Lands, Rota | Make Offer |

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Mavs oust Spurs from playoffs with 106-93 win



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks calmly walked off the floor with little more than some high-fives, as if they've done this before in the playoffs. They have, but it's been a while.

Nowitzki scored 31 points and the Mavericks won a playoff series for the first time since 2006, eliminating the San Antonio Spurs in five games with a 106-93 victory Tuesday night.

It is the first time San Antonio has lost in the opening round since 2000, one year after the Spurs won their first of four NBA titles. San Antonio was the third seed, but throughout the series it was Dallas that clearly looked like the higher-slotted team.

The Mavericks advance to the Western Conference semifinals to play either Denver or New Orleans. The Nuggets lead that series 3-1 and can finish off the Hornets on Wednesday at Denver.

Tim Duncan scored 30 and Tony Parker had 26 but once again got little help—the story of the series for the two-dimensional Spurs.

"It was a tough series," said Mavs sixth man Jason Terry, who scored 19 points. "Obviously our bitter rival, but I think everybody came to play."

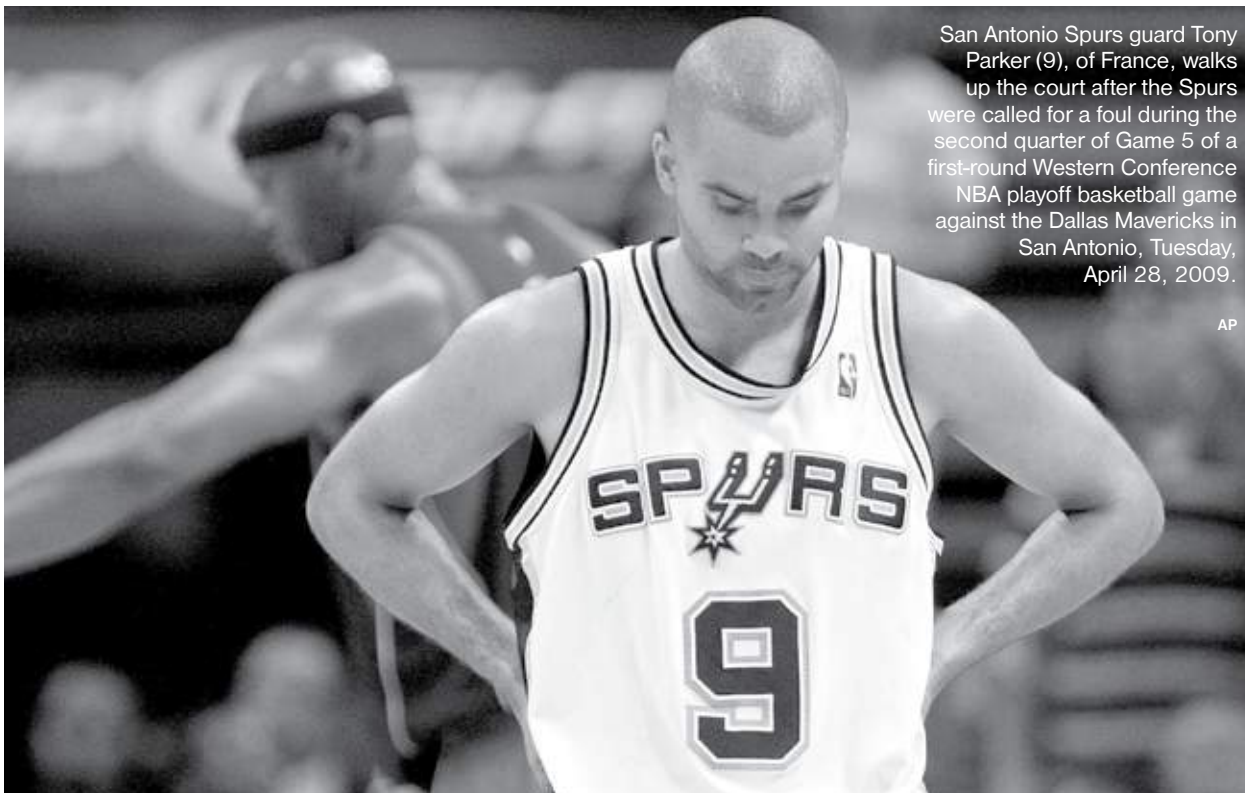
Getting to the West semifinals is a dramatic turn for the Mavericks, who were a borderline playoff team as late as March and got a public lashing from owner Mark Cuban after a listless loss to woeful Oklahoma City. Dallas pulled together to win seven of nine entering the playoffs, and has now won 11 of its last 14.

The Mavs can also stick this to their Interstate 35 rivals: only twice in the Tim Duncan era have the Spurs been eliminated on their home court, and both have come courtesy of Dallas.

Josh Howard rang in his 29th birthday with 17 points, and may have permission from coach Rick Carlisle to celebrate this time.

Howard enraged former coach Avery Johnson last year when he didn't cancel his birthday plans despite a blistering Mavs playoff defeat, but the party may be on coach Carlisle after this series win.

Howard's biggest gift to the Mavs: a momentum-changing 3-pointer with 4:20 left in the third, which he celebrated by skipping down the sideline and razzing the crowd. When Jason Kidd hit another 3-pointer at the buzzer in the third, his teammates jumped from their seats and spilled onto the floor.



San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker (9), of France, walks up the court after the Spurs were called for a foul during the second quarter of Game 5 of a first-round Western Conference NBA playoff basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks in San Antonio, Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

AP

Ailing Wade says he'll be ready for Game 5

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade is ailing again in the NBA playoffs, an odd-year coincidence that he and the Miami Heat would love to escape from.

The NBA's scoring champion continued suffering on Tuesday from a sore and stiff back, hurting so much that even standing against a wall was a bit problematic.

Still, Wade said he'll play on Wednesday when the Heat visit the Atlanta Hawks in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference first-round series, tied at two games apiece.

"I'll be ready," Wade said.

Miami's playoff exits in 2005 and

2007 both came with Wade hobbling. Four years ago, it was a rib cage injury that doomed Miami in the Eastern Conference finals against Detroit. Two years ago, knee and shoulder pain left him unable to do much of anything against Chicago.

Now, the problem is his back, which began to spasm on Monday morning, and became so bad during Miami the 81-71 loss that night that teammate Jamaal Magloire had to lift Wade off the bench so he could check back into play. He finished only 9-for-26 from the field.

"I can't control it. The only thing

I can do is go out there and play, and if I'm hurting, find ways to try to help my team until it gets better," Wade said, as he rocked back and forth near the outer wall of the Heat locker room on Tuesday, seeming uncomfortable. "I don't have the answers. I'm just going to go out there and play."

"It's just a pride thing," said Udonis Haslem, Miami's co-captain alongside Wade. "I know once Dwyane steps on the floor, he's going to throw all that back stuff to the side and he's going to perform the way he's capable of performing."

They could sense the victory, and the Mavs put it away in the fourth having never trailed.

The Spurs, meanwhile, end their season the same way it started: plenty of Parker and Duncan, but not much else. After combining for 75 percent of San Antonio's points in a Game 4 loss, the duo were once again the only Spurs in double figures.

"The Mavs beat the Spurs," coach Gregg Popovich said. "They're the best team, and that's that."

San Antonio lumbers into the off-season facing questions about where its team, the NBA's winningest over the last decade, goes from here. Along with

the flourishes of another Southwest Division title and 10th consecutive season with 50-plus wins, there was also the ignominy of the worst playoff loss in Spurs history in Game 3.

Injuries played its debilitating part, from Duncan's creaky 33-year-old knees to Manu Ginobili playing just 44 games and missing the playoffs because his ankles were either still recovering or still hurting.

Parker picked up the slack best he could, posting a career season that Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said made him as valuable to his team as any NBA player. Parker also had 12 assists in the series finale.

But a supporting cast from sharpshooter Roger Mason to veteran Michael Finley disappeared down the stretch, leaving the Spurs without the reliable role players they leaned on in previous title runs.

The Big Three will be back next year for the Spurs, piloting what is now a championship drought by their standards: San Antonio has been a denied an NBA finals trip the past two seasons, their longest lapse since the gap between their 1999 and 2003 titles.

Celtics 106, Bulls 104 OT

At Boston, Paul Pierce made three straight jumpers in the final 77 seconds

of overtime and the Boston Celtics held on to beat the Chicago Bulls 106-104 on Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead in their best-of-seven playoff series.

Rajon Rondo scored 28 points with 11 assists and eight rebounds, and Kendrick Perkins had 16 points, 19 rebounds and seven blocks for the Celtics. It was the third time in five games the teams have needed overtime, a surprising first-round struggle for the defending NBA champions.

Ben Gordon scored 26 and Joakim Noah had 11 points and 17 rebounds for Chicago, but Brad Miller missed the potential game-tying free throws with 2 seconds left in overtime.

The Bulls return home for Game 6 on Thursday night hoping to extend the series; Game 7, if necessary, would be in Boston on Saturday.

Magic 91, 76ers 78

At Orlando, Fla., Dwight Howard had 24 points and a career playoff-high 24 rebounds, a dominating performance that powered Orlando to a 3-2 series lead over Philadelphia.

Rashard Lewis snapped out of his playoff slump with a series-high 24 points, and Rafer Alston scored 14 for the Magic. It was Howard's fourth career playoff game with at least 20 points and 20 rebounds.

Andre Iguodala scored 26 points and led a second-half charge that fizzled fast, and Andre Miller added 17 points for Philadelphia.

The Sixers face elimination in Game 6 in the best-of-seven series on Thursday in Philadelphia. A potential Game 7 would be Saturday in Orlando.

Trail Blazers 88, Rockets 77

At Portland, Ore., Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge each scored 25 points, and Portland staved off elimination in the playoffs by beating Houston in Game 5.

The Rockets, who have not advanced out of the first round of the playoffs in six tries since 1997, hold a 3-2 advantage in the series going into Thursday night's game back in Houston.

Luis Scola led the Rockets with 21 points. Yao Ming had 15 points and 12 rebounds.

Roy, a two-time All-Star and Portland's leading scorer, missed practice on Monday because of flu-like symptoms, while Aldridge didn't practice because of a sore right elbow. Both started Tuesday night.

Arizona releases running back Edgerrin James



PHOENIX (AP)—The Arizona Cardinals granted running back Edgerrin James' wish to be released on Tuesday and cut two others who played significant roles in the team's run to the Super Bowl.

While James' move was anticipated, the release of cornerback Rod Hood and defensive end Travis LaBoy was not.

The moves clear salary cap space for the Cardinals, who want to sign new deals with linebacker Karlos Dansby and safety Adrian Wilson, and eventually with unhappy wide receiver Anquan Boldin.

James, Hood and LaBoy combined

were to have made \$10 million next season, but because of the \$7.5 million signing bonus given to LaBoy a year ago, the cap savings will be several million dollars less than what the three would have earned. Still, it gives spending room to a franchise that had been just below the salary ceiling.

James had 794 carries for 2,895 yards and 16 touchdowns in his three seasons in Arizona. He topped 1,000 yards in 2006 and 2007, and his resurgence during last season's playoffs gave Arizona the running game it had sorely lacked.

He was benched for seven games earlier in 2008, the first time that's happened in his career, and he asked

the team to release him then. The Cardinals refused, and he was reinserted into the lineup late in the season.

Despite it being such a difficult year, it led to James' only Super Bowl.

James had sought his release early in the free agency period, but the Cardinals held off until after last weekend's draft, where they chose Ohio State running back Chris "Beanie" Wells in the first round, the No. 31 pick overall. Wells and second-year pro Tim Hightower are expected to be Arizona's featured backs in the coming season.

James, 30, had one year left, at \$5 million, on the four-year, \$40 million deal he signed with Arizona before the 2006 season. He recently experienced

a personal tragedy with the death of his longtime girlfriend, and mother of his four children, of leukemia at age 30.

In his 10-year career, James has rushed for 12,121 yards, 11th on the NFL career list and first among active players.

Hood appeared in 31 games, 30 as a starter, since signing with Arizona as a free agent in 2007. He had 105 tackles and six interceptions. The Cardinals added a cornerback in free agency by signing Bryant McFadden, then drafted Greg Toler out of tiny St. Paul's College of Virginia in the fourth round on Sunday.

LaBoy, who played four seasons for the Tennessee Titans, signed a five-year, \$22 million contract, with about \$7.5

million guaranteed, with Arizona before the 2008 season. He played in 13 games with 38 tackles, four sacks, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery in his lone season with the Cardinals.

Coach Ken Whisenhunt wasn't available for comment, but issued a statement through the team.

"It's never easy to release veteran players who have contributed to the team's success, and these three individuals certainly fall into that category," he said. "But like every decision we make, it simply comes down to what is in the best interest of our football team and what gives us the best chance for success. We're grateful to all three of them for their contributions and wish them nothing but the best in the future."

The team's minicamp starts on Friday.

Utley's 2 homers help Phillies win 5th straight



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Chase Utley homered twice and

drove in three runs, Pedro Feliz added a three-run shot and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Washington Nationals 7-1 Tuesday night for their fifth straight victory.

Raul Ibanez also went deep for the Phillies, who won despite losing ace Cole Hamels early for the second consecutive start. The left-hander came out in the fifth inning after spraining his left ankle trying to field John Lannan's bunt.

Hamels, making his fourth start, appeared to be on his way to his first win. He allowed four hits and struck out four in 4 1-3 innings, leaving with a 5-0 lead.

Marlins 7, Mets 4

At New York, Jorge Cantu homered twice and drove in five runs and the Marlins ended one of the wilder rides in baseball history, beating the Mets to snap a seven-game losing streak.

The Marlins' skid started immediately after they'd won seven in a row. Florida became the first NL team to win at least seven straight and also lose at least seven straight in April, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

Cantu hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning, then lined a tiebreaking, three-run drive in the seventh.

Florida won minus All-Star shortstop Hanley Ramirez, who was hit by a pitch in the right hand the previous night. The Mets were missing first baseman Carlos Delgado and second baseman Luis Castillo, both nursing recent injuries.

Braves 2, Cardinals 1

A Atlanta, Matt Diaz drove in two runs with a bases-loaded single off Kyle McClellan in the eighth inning, rallying the Braves to a win over the Cardinals.

Kyle Lohse pitched six scoreless innings and left with a 1-0 lead, but he was denied his fourth straight win as the Braves took advantage of McClellan's shaky eighth.

McClellan (1-1) walked Omar Infante, Chipper Jones and Jeff Francoeur to set the stage for Diaz's go-ahead hit with two outs.

McClellan threw ball three behind Diaz's back before giving up the two-run single up the middle on the 3-2 pitch.

Peter Moylan (1-1) pitched a perfect eighth after Jo-Jo Reyes allowed only three hits, one walk and one run in seven innings.

Astros 8, Reds 3

At Cincinnati, Wandy Rodriguez allowed one run in seven innings and Ivan Rodriguez homered and doubled, helping the Astros extend their three-year winning streak at Great American Ball Park over the Reds.

The Astros have won their last 11 games in Cincinnati, a streak that started late in the 2007 season and is the longest current run of dominance in the majors. Houston is 32-15-1 at the hitter-friendly ballpark that opened in 2003.

It's not only their hitters who like it.

Wandy Rodriguez (2-2) leads a staff that has prospered at Great American, going 3-0 at the ballpark. His batterymate, Ivan Rodriguez, homered off Aaron Harang (2-3), who lasted only five innings.

Brewers 6, Pirates 5

At Milwaukee, Trevor Hoffman saved



Philadelphia Phillies' Chase Utley, right, celebrates with third base coach Sam Perlozzo (2) after hitting a two-run home run against the Washington Nationals in the third inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 28, 2009, in Philadelphia. AP

his first game with the Brewers and Bill Hall and Rickie Weeks homered in the sixth inning to rally Milwaukee to a victory over the Pirates.

The Brewers trailed 5-1 before they scored two runs in the fifth and three more in the sixth on Hall's solo homer to start the inning off Pirates starter Paul Maholm and Weeks' go-ahead, two-run shot off Jesse Chavez.

The 41-year-old Hoffman, the all-time saves leader who signed a one-year deal with Milwaukee in the offseason, got his first save with the Brewers and 555th of his career one night after making his first appearance with Milwaukee.

Padres 4, Rockies 3

At Denver, Luis Rodriguez laced a run-scoring pinch-hit single through a drawn-in infield in the ninth, lifting the Padres to a win over the Rockies.

Nick Hundley began the inning with a triple into the corner off reliever Manuel Corpas (0-2), scoring easily when Rodriguez's one-out hit scooted through the right side of the infield.

Before his game-winning hit, Rodriguez had struggled in his career as a pinch hitter, going 1-for-19 since the start of 2007.

Duaner Sanchez (1-0) earned the win despite a rocky eighth and Heath Bell pitched his way around Todd Helton's two-out double in the ninth for his major-league leading eighth save in as many chances.

Cubs 11, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, Carlos Zambrano fell a triple shy of the cycle and pitched seven sharp innings, and the Cubs routed the Diamondbacks.

Alfonso Soriano and Mike Fontenot also homered for the Cubs, who won for only the second time in seven games.

Zambrano is a career .235 hitter who opened the season 0 for 9. He snapped out of the slump with a single in the third, then added an RBI double off the top of the wall in right-center field in the fifth.

In the seventh, Zambrano hit an 0-2 pitch from Esmerling Vasquez into the first row of the left field stands for his 17th career homer, most by a Cubs pitcher.

Zambrano (2-1) allowed three runs and eight hits, walking two and striking out three.

Dodgers 5, Giants 3

At San Francisco, Andre Ethier doubled in the go-ahead run in the ninth inning and the Dodgers beat the Giants, avoiding their longest losing streak of the season.

Manny Ramirez had three doubles and James Loney drove in two runs for the Dodgers, who had lost their previous two games.

Jonathan Broxton (2-0) blew his first save after six straight successful chances when he walked pinch-hitter Rich Aurilia with the bases loaded in the eighth.

Chad Billingsley pitched 7 1-3 innings, allowing three runs and seven hits, striking out eight.

Pablo Sandoval and Travis Ishikawa, who had two hits, drove in runs for the Giants, who have won six of eight.

Yankees 11, Tigers 0

At Detroit, Phil Hughes went six innings in his first start and left fielder Josh Anderson's error led to a 10-run seventh inning as the New York Yankees ended a four-game losing streak with a victory over the Detroit Tigers.

Hughes (1-0), who was called up from Class AAA Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, and Edwin Jackson duelled through six innings. Hughes, who replaced the injured Chien-Ming Wang in the rotation, allowed two hits, while Jackson gave up four.

Nick Swisher led off the seventh against Ryan Perry (0-1) with a single and Melky Cabrera walked. After a sacrifice, pinch-hitter Jorge Posada lifted what looked like a routine fly ball to left but Anderson missed the ball for a two-base, two-run error that started the big inning.

Indians 9, Red Sox 8

At Cleveland, Mark DeRosa had four hits and scored from second base on an error with two outs in the ninth inning as the Indians beat the Red Sox, snapping their 11-game winning streak.

The Indians won for only the second time in their last 11 games against the Red Sox.

Kerry Wood (1-1), worked a shaky ninth to earn his first AL win. He gave up two singles, but got Jacoby Ellsbury to line out to end the threat.

DeRosa, who entered the game in a 2-for-22 slump, began the ninth with a bloop single off Javier Lopez (0-2). After a sacrifice and a strikeout, first baseman Kevin Youkilis made a backhanded stop of Asdrubal Cabrera's grounder and flipped to Lopez, who dropped it as he got to first base.

White Sox 2, Mariners 1, Game 1 Mariners 9, White Sox 1, Game 2

At Chicago, Yuniesky Betancourt drove in five runs, Russell Branyan had a career-high five hits and the Mariners salvaged a doubleheader split with the White Sox.

In the opener, Bartolo Colon pitched seven strong innings and Paul Konerko hit a two-run double, leading Chicago to a brisk victory. At 1 hour, 52 minutes, it was the fastest game in the majors this season, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Betancourt matched a career high with four hits, including a three-run homer. Branyan finished 5 of 5 for the Mariners, who compiled a season-high 19 hits.

Felix Hernandez (4-0) coasted through eight scoreless innings, striking out nine. The 23-year-old right-hander allowed four hits and one walk.

In the opener, Mariners starter Chris Jakubauskas (1-3) was a hard-luck loser in his first career complete game, a two-hitter. The White Sox were held to

just seven hits on the day.

Chicago starter John Danks (2-1) allowed five runs and eight hits in four innings in the nightcap.

Angels 7, Orioles 5

At Baltimore, Joe Saunders allowed two earned runs in six innings, Howie Kendrick homered, and the Angels beat the Orioles to secure their first winning streak of the season.

Kendry Morales had two doubles and two RBIs for the Angels, who became the last team in the majors to win two in a row. Los Angeles was coming off an 8-0 victory over Seattle on Sunday.

Saunders (3-1) gave up four runs and 10 hits. The left-hander is 10-1 lifetime in April and 5-0 in his career against the Orioles.

Brian Fuentes worked the ninth and earned his fourth save despite giving up a solo homer to Adam Jones.

Rangers 5, Athletics 4

At Arlington, Texas, Nelson Cruz hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning to make up for a costly error, and the Rangers beat the Athletics.

The Rangers (10-10) won for the fourth time in five games to get back to .500 for the first time since the opening weekend of the season, when they were 3-3 after sweeping their opening homestand before losing three straight at Detroit.

Hank Blalock reached on a two-base error in the eighth when his sharp grounder went under the glove of first baseman Jason Giambi into the right-field corner. Cruz followed with a single to left off Michael Wuerzt (1-1).

Kevin Millwood (2-2) scattered 10 hits over eight innings, allowing four runs.

Twins 4, Rays 3

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau hustled to beat out a potential double play and allow the winning run to score in the ninth inning and hit an early two-run homer, leading the Twins past the Rays.

Ben Zobrist's pinch-hit homer tied the game in the top of the ninth against Twins closer Joe Nathan (1-0). Zobrist came in from right field for a fifth infielder with one out in the bottom half after reliever J.P. Howell (0-2) gave up two singles and a walk to load the bases.

Morneau hit a grounder to second for an easy force, but the relay was a hair late as the winning run scored. First base coach Jerry White jubilantly jumped in the air, and Morneau coolly tossed his helmet toward the mound as his teammates rushed at him.

Blue Jays 8, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Mo., Scott Richmond pitched seven sharp innings, Vernon Wells drove in three runs and the Blue Jays beat the Royals.

Aaron Hill, who leads the majors with 36 hits and has a hit in all but one game this year, had three hits, raising his average to .371, and two RBIs.

Richmond (3-0), a rookie right-hander, limited the Royals to one run and five hits over seven innings. Richmond, a 29-year-old right-hander who pitched three seasons with Edmonton in independent leagues before signing with the Blue Jays in November 2007, walked three and struck out five, lowering his ERA to 2.70.

Royals starter Gil Meche left after 3 2-3 innings with lower back stiffness and will be evaluated further Wednesday.

CNMI walking group welcomes Amemiya back

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Walking Association (formerly Saipan Walking Association, Inc.) welcomed former director Hiroko Amemiya back in a luncheon meeting Sunday, remembering her contributions to the group.

"Hiroko had been a very supportive and outstanding director for SAIWAI, introducing the program to our valued Japanese market," MWA board director Mario Espeleta said.

Amemiya spent 14 years on Saipan, helping boost the CNMI's tourism market by bringing in Japanese to walking events and other fun activities. She was also active in sports, having played indoor volleyball and having represented the Commonwealth to the doubles



Former Marianas Walking Association director Hiroko Amemiya, second left, is welcomed by MWA officials and her friends on Saipan in a luncheon meeting Sunday at Dolphins Restaurant.

competition in the 1990 Micronesian Games. Amemiya teamed up with 2004 NMASA Hall of Fame Irene Alpet in giving the CNMI a bronze medal in lawn tennis.

"Those were the days and I missed them. When I was here, I get to work with great people and at the same time play various sports. It was a good life," said Amemiya, who left Saipan in 2005 to be with her mother.

She returned here last week to help Taga, Inc. to organize the 20th Tagaman Triathlon and reconnect with her MWA friends.

"It's nice to be back, to see the same committed people I worked with. I definitely missed them and missed Saipan life, its beautiful and unspoiled beaches and warm people. Unfortunately, I could not stay long, as I have to return to Japan and attend to work commitments, but my heart will always be here," said Amemiya, who returns to Tokyo today.

Amemiya, a former guest loyalty program manager for Pacific Islands Club, said after he left the island in 2005, she managed to return to Saipan once every year during the Tagaman Triathlon.

"I am thankful to PIC and Taga, Inc. for bringing me back on Saipan at least once every year to experience the fun and camaraderie among those involved in Tagaman," she said.

Midway at the welcome luncheon, MWA presented Amemiya with souvenir T-shirts from two events the group had early this year.

Joining Espeleta in presenting T-shirts to Amemiya were Pacific Development, Inc.'s Yoichi Matsumura and Marianas Visitors Authority's Hiroko Tenorio.

The group also briefed Amemiya about two events next month—the Sophia Walk on May 2 and World Walking Day on May 10.

"I wished I could join them next month, but I will be with them in spirit," Amemiya said.

HEO

From Page 28

At the awards ceremony Sunday night, Heo received the perpetual CNMI championship trophy, which had his and other winners' names on it. Heo is in the company of Sung Won Yoon (1993), Chang Hyun Cho (1994), J.J. Richardson (1995 and 1996), Tadashi Yoshimura (1997), Eung Sung Hang (1998), Kim Hee Sung (1999 to 2001), Daniel Son (2002), Jung Mun Chung (2003), Nicolas Son (2004), and Rafael Buenaventura (2005).

Heo said it was great to have set a new record and be on top of the field today.

"I remember several years ago when I started playing tennis, I was one of the smallest kids in the field. I was the perennial underdog. But things have changed in the past three years and I am thankful to my coaches and fellow players for bringing me where I am now," Heo said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Heo's fourth consecutive titles in the CNMI championships tied Kana Aikawa and Mayuko Ariola's records in the women's division. Aikawa won from 1999 to 2001 and in 2003. Ariola had her first back-to-back championship in 2004 and 2005 and went on to have the same achievement in 2007 and 2008.

Others on the list of cham-

pions in the women's division were Kaoru Suwa (1993 and 1994), Hiroe Fujimoto (1995 and 1996), Min Ji Kim (1997), Momoko Kobayashi (1998), Na Sil Heo (2002), Vivian Lee (2006), and Thea Minor (2009).

Heo still has a chance to extend his reign in the boys' 18-and-under age group, as he is only 17 years old.

The Marianas High School student competed in last week's junior championship a few weeks after participating in two tournaments in South Korea.

Heo joined the Jeju International Junior Championships 2009 and lost in three sets in the first round in the main draw against Kyu-Min Park, 7-6, 3-6, 4-6. The CNMI bet

then went to Seoul for the Lee Duk Hee Cup Korea International Junior Championships 2009 and bowed in the qualifying round over Moo Seong Park, 4-6, 2-6.

Though he lost in the two tournaments, Heo was proud to represent the CNMI in Korea. He said a CNMI flag was in display at the tennis courts during the two tournaments.

"For the first time, our CNMI flag was standing in the tennis courts. I was proud to see the flag hanging. Usually I don't see a CNMI flag when I compete off-island because they barely even know where CNMI is. But this time they got it," Heo said in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

PINOY

From Page 28

saw him finish 17th overall in the off-road XTERRA Saipan (3:30:37), Macasieb showed his true worth by finishing fourth in last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon (3:11:31).

"It was a great race and a great day! It was really great to have so many people cheering for me!" said the 33-year-old Filipino-American triathlete who beat out by a mere 10 seconds the United Kingdom's Jim McConnell for fourth place in the Tagaman.

The triathlon bronze-medalist in the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games added that the Tagaman's flat course suited him bet-

ter than the local XTERRA.

"Well I'm not really a mountain biker—as a matter of fact I don't even own a mountain bike! But I love climbing. It's just the descending that I have trouble with off-road. But I'm really a roadie at heart, so today was more my cup of tea."

Macasieb also said that the hospitality showed by people on Saipan, especially its Filipino community, made his two-week stay on the island a very memorable one.

"The most memorable part has been all my new friends that I've met ever since I've come to Guam and Saipan. All my new Filipino friends have all contributed something to my races here—either letting me stay in their homes, lending me a

mountain bike, helmet, so many I can't count. I am very blessed and lucky to have so many friends—the Filipino triathlon community really is the best!"

Macasieb will follow up his 2009 Saipan Sports Fest stint by taking part in the Subic Bay International Triathlon next month. Incidentally, he was the top Filipino finisher in the race last year.

May will also see him compete in the Honolulu 70.3, which will be staged on the actual Ironman World Championship course in Hawaii on May 30.

He then plans to return to New Jersey in June to take part in several U.S. calendar races.

Macasieb hopes to fly back to the Philippines in August to compete in the Inaugural Philippines 70.3 in Camarines Sur.

PREP

From Page 28

ends of the floor," said Jones.

Ingram heads to Mercer after a well-traveled high school career that saw her earn four letters with three schools in three different states. Ingram averaged a double-double for North Stafford High School in northern Virginia last season, contributing 18.1 points and 12.6

rebounds per game.

In addition to the First Team All Commonwealth District honors, the university's website noted that Ingram was also named the Free Lance Star All-Area Athlete in her senior campaign. She earned first team all-area and all-district honors and an all-region honorable mention nod in 2007-08 after leading North Stafford to the district championship. She also took the court for the Fair-

fax Stars Elite AAU team.

Prior to heading to Virginia, Ingram landed a spot on the all-region first team and All-Southern second team while playing for Buena Vista High School in Sierra Vista, Ariz. in her sophomore season.

As a freshman, Ingram helped Dimond High School in Anchorage, Alaska to a 23-5 record and a state championship in her freshman season, scoring 15 vital points in the title game. She was

named to the all-tournament team for the Alaska State Tournament, and earned all-state honorable mention honors in her first and only season with the Lynx.

"Even though she played post in high school, we see her developing her guard skills to play power forward," Jones added. "Samoana will bring a tremendous energy both on and off the court. We look for Samoana to make an immediate impact as a freshman."

D-9ERS

From Page 28

after dropping their next assignment on Sunday at the hands of the Lion King.

Kagman Lion King made it four in a row with their 11-8 win over D-9ers.

Shota Castro went 2-for-2 with a walk and two runs and Dominic Chargualaf had a 1-for-1, performance from the plate along with three runs, four walks, and a RBI single in the win.

Earlier the Lion King posted a hard-earned 12-8 victory in an eight-inning game over a relentless Ol'Aces team last Saturday.

With the Lion King just ahead by a run (8-7) after the top of sev-

enth, Ol'Aces' Tony Guerrero stole home in the bottom of the seventh to force the extra inning.

The Lion King made four runs in the top of eighth for win with Jack Muna leading the charge after going 2-of-5 and contributing a run and three RBIs. A.J. Hocog was 2-for-3, with four runs, two RBIs, and two walks.

Despite the loss, virtual pennant winner Jets is still way ahead from the rest of the pack with 14-2 record.

Second-running Fielders improved to 10-5 following an easy 14-6 win over Ol'Aces.

Ton Agulto went 4-for-5 with three runs and three RBIs and Peter Tenorio had a 3-for-5 performance with two runs and four RBIs.

| TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES | | | | |
|--|----|----|------|-------|
| MLB STANDINGS | | | | |
| AMERICAN LEAGUE | | | | |
| East Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Toronto | 15 | 7 | .682 | - |
| Boston | 13 | 7 | .650 | 1 |
| New York | 10 | 10 | .500 | 4 |
| Baltimore | 9 | 12 | .429 | 5 1/2 |
| Tampa Bay | 8 | 13 | .381 | 6 1/2 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| Detroit | 11 | 9 | .550 | - |
| Chicago | 10 | 10 | .500 | 1 |
| Kansas City | 10 | 10 | .500 | 1 |
| Minnesota | 10 | 11 | .476 | 1 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 8 | 13 | .381 | 3 1/2 |
| West Division | | | | |
| Seattle | 13 | 8 | .619 | - |
| Texas | 10 | 10 | .500 | 2 1/2 |
| Los Angeles | 8 | 11 | .421 | 4 |
| Oakland | 7 | 11 | .389 | 4 1/2 |
| East Division | | | | |
| Florida | 12 | 8 | .600 | - |
| Philadelphia | 11 | 8 | .579 | 1/2 |
| Atlanta | 10 | 10 | .500 | 2 |
| New York | 9 | 11 | .450 | 3 |
| Washington | 4 | 15 | .211 | 7 1/2 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| St. Louis | 14 | 7 | .667 | - |
| Pittsburgh | 11 | 9 | .550 | 2 1/2 |
| Chicago | 10 | 9 | .526 | 3 |
| Cincinnati | 10 | 10 | .500 | 3 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 10 | 10 | .500 | 3 1/2 |
| West Division | | | | |
| Los Angeles | 14 | 7 | .667 | - |
| San Diego | 11 | 9 | .550 | 2 1/2 |
| San Francisco | 9 | 10 | .474 | 4 |
| Arizona | 8 | 12 | .400 | 5 1/2 |
| Colorado | 7 | 12 | .368 | 6 |
| Yesterday's Games | | | | |
| Philadelphia 7, Washington 1 | | | | |
| Florida 7, N.Y. Mets 4 | | | | |
| Atlanta 2, St. Louis 1 | | | | |
| Houston 8, Cincinnati 3 | | | | |
| Milwaukee 6, Pittsburgh 5 | | | | |
| San Diego 4, Colorado 3 | | | | |
| Chicago Cubs 11, Arizona 3 | | | | |
| L.A. Dodgers 5, San Francisco 3 | | | | |
| Chicago White Sox 2, Seattle 1, 1st game | | | | |
| Seattle 9, Chicago White Sox 1, 2nd game | | | | |
| N.Y. Yankees 11, Detroit 0 | | | | |
| Cleveland 9, Boston 8 | | | | |
| L.A. Angels 7, Baltimore 5 | | | | |
| Texas 5, Oakland 4 | | | | |
| Minnesota 4, Tampa Bay 3 | | | | |
| Toronto 8, Kansas City 1 | | | | |
| BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS | | | | |
| LOCAL SCORES | | | | |
| LITTLE LEAGUE STANDINGS | | | | |
| Senior Division | | | | |
| Jets | 14 | 2 | | |
| Fielders | 10 | 4 | | |
| D-9ers | 9 | 7 | | |
| Lion King | 5 | 10 | | |
| Ol'Aces | 1 | 15 | | |

Gualo Rai Friendship Basketball League

Photos By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Above left, Pacific Trading Co.'s Mike Babauta joins the Mythical Team Selection for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Miller Lite/Gualo Rai Friendship Basketball League last week at the Gualo Rai court.

Above right, runner-up Miller Lite and its supporters pose for a group photo.

Left, members of the champion team E&E, league organizers, and supporters pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the six-team basketball tourney.



Dennis Morales won the Finals MVP award after scoring 27 points in E&E's 93-84 title win over Miller Lite.

Above, three-point king Mark Francisco, right, receive his award from PTC's Mike Babauta.

Above right, members of Team Wushin receive their third place trophy.

Right, a representative from Wasalak Team, second right, receives a trophy from league organizers after prevailing in an exhibition game against the Oldies.



Eric Dizon of E&E is all smiles after winning the Coach of the Year Award.



CNMI walking group welcomes Amemiya back

Marianas Walking Association (formerly Saipan Walking Association, Inc.) welcomed former director Hiroko Amemiya back in a luncheon meeting Sunday, remembering her contributions to the group.

26

Saipan Tribune Sports

Mavs oust Spurs from playoffs with 106-93 win

Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks calmly walked off the floor with little more than some high-fives, as if they've done this before in the playoffs.

24



28 THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo made a milestone last weekend, as he became the winningest male player in the history of the CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

Heo topped the singles competition in the boys' 18-and-under division of the 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships after shutting out Benjie Decena in the finals, 6-0, 6-0, Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis court.

This was the fourth straight time that Heo ruled the boys' 18-and-under singles division in the Commonwealth's junior tennis championships, allowing him to shatter the record of Kim Hee Sung.

Kim dominated the same event from 1999 to 2001, while Heo started his title run in the CNMI championship from 2006.

In 2006, Heo prevailed over 2005 champion Rafael Buenaventura, 6-4, 7-5, and the former nailed back-to-back titles after downing Nicolas Son in the 2007 finale, 6-4, 6-2. Last year, Heo made it a three-peat after crushing Russell Buenaventura, 6-0, 6-0.

See HEO on Page 26



Prep standout with Tinian roots to play Division I basketball

Ingram



By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Samoana Ingram, whose mother is the former Jovita Hofschneider of Tinian, will play for the Mercer University women's basketball team in the 2009-2010 season.

Mercer sees action in the Atlantic Sun Conference of the National Colleges Athletics Association and Ingram thus becomes one of the first—if not the first—woman basketball player from the CNMI to play Division I hoops.

The 5'10" Ingram's father is Damon Ingram.

According to Mercer University's website (www.mercerbears.com), Ingram will join the Bears as a freshman and will have four years of NCAA eligibility for the Orange and Black.

This early, Bears head coach Janel Jones is already excited with the addition of Ingram to Mercer's lineup.

"Samoana is one of the toughest players we saw on the recruiting circuit. She can bang with the tallest of posts and is a rebounding machine. She has a knack for being around the ball on both

See PREP on Page 26

Heo sets record in Jr. Championships



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Hoon Heo shows the trophies he won in the 2009 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Pinoy pro Macasieb raring to come back

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Arland Macasieb had such a great time in the 2009 Saipan Sports Fest that the Filipino pro triathlete is already contemplating a return next year.

The New Jersey-based Macasieb said he will look at his schedule for 2010 and make sure to encircle the dates for the 9th XTERRA Saipan Championship and 21st Tagaman Triathlon.

After a slow start in the Saipan Sports Fest, which

See PINOY on Page 26



MARK RABAGO

Filipino pro Arland Macasieb crossed the finish line of the 20th Tagaman Triathlon in a time of 3:11:31 last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

D-9ers escape Jets, Lion King on a roll



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Lion Kings' two ladies in the lineup, Rita Taitano, Dorian Emul, join teammate Brandon Indalecio in the dugout.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



San Roque D-9ers snapped the Jets' six-game winning run with a 2-1 win in their defense-oriented match-up in the Senior Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

With both teams' playing solidly on the field, Henry Nakamura squeezed in the first run in the top of sixth and gave the Jets' 1-0 lead.

D-9ers leading batter for the season, Eric Tenorio, singled and drove home Mart Sablan to tie the score.

Then in the bottom of the seventh, Clyde Sablan scored on a sacrifice fly to center by Branson Kladikim for the win.

Davenalt Jones struck out five batters he faced and allowed six hits and four walks in 7.1 innings for the D-9ers.

Joseph Palacios Jr. struck out seven batters and allowed only three hits and a walk in a losing effort for the Jets.

However, D-9ers failed to duplicate the win

See D-9ERS on Page 26